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ORIGINAL

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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MENA: 'ARAFAT WILL NOT HEAD FATAH DELEGATION TO MOSCOW

NC1217137 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 12 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 12 May--According to an official source in the Palestinian Fatah movement, a delegation including Fatah Central Council members Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, and Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu as-Sa'id, is to visit the Soviet Union.

The same source added that while in Moscow the delegation will hold talks on the party and government levels. After Moscow, the source said, the delegation will tour a number of East European countries.

The source denied reports that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will head the delegation. The source added that when 'Arafat concludes his current tour of the Gulf area he will return to Damascus, where he will chair a meeting of the Fatah Central Council next week.

PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE REPORTEDLY TO BE FORMED

NC1510009 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 15 May--Quoting Gulf diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH reports today that a decision to declare a Palestinian government-in-exile has actually been made and that this government will be announced after the Fatah delegation returns from the Soviet Union. It adds that part of the current Palestinian contacts with the Arab states are related to this subject.

According to the paper, the Palestinian decision was made on the basis of much international advice, the latest coming from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. Ceausescu advised Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, that if the Palestinian leadership wants to emerge from the current game with anything, then it must form a government-in-exile that will accept Security Council Resolution 242.

The paper adds that the mere acceptance of the Security Council resolution by this government will pave the way for a Palestinian-U.S. dialog that will be followed by moves to convene the Geneva conference with the Palestinians participating on an equal footing with the other parties.

The paper reports that the headquarters of the Palestinian government will be in Damascus and that the Palestinian leaders who will assume control of this government will be Yasir 'Arafat, Khalid al-Hasan, Abu Mazin and some leaders of the democratic front and neutral Palestinians. As for Fatah, it will remain outside the government. Fatah is now holding direct contacts with the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc for the first time in its capacity as a national struggle movement and not the backbone of the PLO. By doing this, it is assuming the role of a rejectionist force.

PLO TO RENEW EFFORTS TO RECONCILE SYRIA, IRAQ

NC1409489 Doha QNA in Arabic 0853 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 14 May--In a report from Beirut, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN says today that in the next few days the PLO will embark on a new attempt to reconcile Damascus and Baghdad.

The paper says that Beirut sources expect Syria to be subjected to intensive pressure from various sources to compel it to change its attitude toward convening an Arab summit conference. It adds that Palestinian sources have important information regarding this matter, including attempts to rekindle sedition in Lebanon so that the Syrian Army will find itself facing new and complex difficulties that will weaken its capabilities.

The paper adds that on this basis, Palestinian sources emphasize the need for bringing Damascus and Baghdad together and that contacts with the two sides are now underway as a preliminary step to achieve this objective.

'ARAFAT ANSWERS KUWAITI JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS

JN131916Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Kuwait yesterday from Manama as part of a tour of the Gulf states to explain the current situation facing the Palestinian revolution and the Arab region after the war in southern Lebanon.

On arrival at Kuwait airport, Brother Abu 'Ammar answered questions from journalists. He demanded the implementation of UN Resolution 3236, which recognizes the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Commenting on the proposal by Anwar as-Sadat, president of the Egyptian regime, in which he called for the return of the Gaza Strip to Egypt and the West Bank to Jordan, Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that from now on no country in the world can ignore the Palestinian revolution, which has become a main factor in the existing Middle East dispute. He added: This stand has been embodied in the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Rabat. These resolutions gave to the PLO alone the right to represent the Palestinian people and recognized the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state.

Brother Abu 'Ammar mentioned that other Palestinian delegations will shortly visit the capitals of friendly countries to explain the situation in the aftermath of Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

Yesterday evening, Brother Abu 'Ammar met with the Palestinian community in Kuwait. Today he is scheduled to hold talks with Kuwait officials, particularly with the Kuwaiti heir apparent, the prime minister, the deputy prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs.

Brother Abu 'Ammar earlier visited Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain. He announced at a festival in Doha that there are no U.S. or Israeli peace efforts; there are only conditions of capitulation which are being imposed on the whole world by the United States.

JANA: PLO'S 'ARAFAT DENOUNCES U.S. MIDEAST POLICY

LD150024Y Tripoli JANA in English 1537 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, May 14 JANA--At a meeting held last night in Kuwait, the chairman of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, denounced President Carter and American policy.

Mr 'Arafat said that he was addressing his speech to President Carter, who had said "no" to the Palestinian revolution and "no" to the setting up of a Palestinian state. "Now in reply, I say 'no' to imperialism 'no' to American interests in our area."

'Arafat affirmed that the occupation by the Zionist enemy of southern Lebanon is the outcome of an American resolve aimed at liquidating the Palestinian revolution and putting the Arab citizen under the control of American imperialism and world Zionism.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED BY KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY

JN141911Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1430 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has affirmed that there are attempts from more than one side to detonate the situation in Lebanon, strike at stability in the region and influence Syria. He said: Lebanese quarters are trying to complicate the situation in Lebanon by stressing the French role, under the pretext that the Arab deterrent forces are incapable of performing their duty. Thus they aim at replacing them with UN forces. This is contrary to the will of the Arab nation which unanimously agreed to form these Arab forces at the Cairo and Riyadh summit conferences.

In an interview with the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY yesterday evening, 'Arafat explained that Lebanon is a passageway and not a settlement place for the Palestinian revolution. The armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon, he added, is in implementation of the Cairo agreement, which puts Lebanese sovereignty in the first place.

He affirmed that the Palestinians had fought in Lebanon in defense of its soil, and because they are present there. He further said that the Palestinians faced the Zionist invasion in accord with the Arab League's joint defense treaty.

Regarding Syria's position on the Lebanese front, Yasir 'Arafat said that the Syrian brothers are offering President Ilyas Sarkis every possible help so that he can steer the rudder of his country to the shore of stability and security. Regarding relations between Syria and the PLO, the Palestinian leader indicated that this relationship is not temporary but is a relationship of one entity made up of southern Syria and northern Palestine. [as received] This is a basic matter.

Yasir 'Arafat then talked about the status of the UNIFIL in southern Lebanon and said: I have promised to offer all possible facilities to this international force as long as the task entrusted to it is total Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Otherwise, we shall know what to say.

He pointed out that he had not accepted resolutions 242, 338, and 425 because they do not concern the Palestinians. Therefore, the commando operations are continuing behind the enemy lines in particular, especially since the UN forces have (?violated) the UN charter and have impaired Lebanese and Arab sovereignty instead of rescuing Lebanon.

The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee expressed his doubt about the likelihood of an Israeli withdrawal from two Lebanese enclaves: the enclave of Marj 'Uyun-Al-Qulay'Ah-Dayr Mimas and the enclave of (Zah)-'Ayn Ibil.

Yasir 'Arafat denied rumors of an armed clash inside the Fatah movement and said: Some forces came to southern Lebanon and were later discovered to have been given instructions to open fire on the UNIFIL so as to fabricate a battle between the UNIFIL and the Palestinians. They were also to carry out some assassinations inside the Palestinian camp.

Regarding the proposition of the Egyptian President Anwar As-Sadat about placing the West Bank under temporary 5-year Jordanian supervision, 'Arafat said: There are resolutions which are binding on all, these are the Rabat summit conference resolutions, and noone has the right to violate them except as the result of another summit conference resolution.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER ISSUES AIRCRAFT DEAL, AS-SAIAT, ARAB ISSUES

LD131650Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Beirut--Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information, has expressed his hope that Lebanon will return to the way it was in the past--a country of national culture, intellect and unity. He stated that the Kingdom believes that it is its duty to restore unity to Lebanon--because of the longstanding links and the common destiny between the Kingdom and Lebanon--and that the Kingdom is responsible before God for backing Lebanon and restoring its unity.

This was stated in an interview given by Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, published today by Beirut's AL-BAYRAQ and LA REVUE DE LIBAN. He said that the Kingdom stands by Lebanon in its tribulations and is prepared to do everything to restore it to its former status. His excellency underlined the kingdom's support for Lebanon and said that moral support is more important that financial support, because financial support is secondary and transitory when measured against our feelings of appreciation for Lebanon and our concern for restoring to it the role it once played. He went on to say that it is our duty as Arabs to meet together to support the current steps to establish peace and stressed that no one will benefit from the continuation of tragedies in Lebanon.

In his interview Dr Yamani stressed that the bases being built by the Kingdom and the weapons it purchases are for the defense of its territory. The Kingdom also has fundamental duties to which it is committed, and it is doing its duty in protecting its territory. The Kingdom is also doing its duty by standing by its Arab brethren in our prime destiny--namely the regaining of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people and their safe return to their land with full legitimate rights. His excellency said: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not against the Jews and harbors no hostility toward them, but it is against the Zionist movement, which has unjustly driven a people from their homeland, occupied their territory and, in the process, made them destitute.

He stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given an honorable picture with its balanced and continuing efforts, and before all else it is leading a political movement that serves world peace and security.

Regarding the American aircraft deal for the Kingdom, the minister of information expressed his belief that if the American President insists on his posture on the deal it will be agreed to by Congress, particularly because the balanced policy of the Kingdom will give great confidence to the Congress and Americans in general. They will understand that these aircraft will be used for defense as well as to bolster the security of the Kingdom. Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani underlined the efforts and sacrifices of the Kingdom for the peace and stability of the world economy and the security and safety of the region. He said: The Kingdom has never used its military or economic potential to do anything to disturb world security and peace, or even the world economy.

Regarding the security of the Gulf and its oil, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani stressed that there are no dangers threatening the Gulf or the oil. He said: What is reported from time to time about these dangers are the dreams of those who want to harm the Gulf region. He went on to say that the Kingdom is establishing cooperation with the Arab countries in the Gulf in various cultural, economic and information and other spheres. He stressed the readiness of the Kingdom and the Gulf countries to repel any aggression that might occur, God forbid, and to halt anyone who thinks of harming the security and stability of the Gulf.

Answering a question by the two papers about the fire which broke out in one of the oil wells in the eastern region, his excellency said: These incidents are nothing new or odd for oil production areas in the world, for we hear from time to time of similar incidents elsewhere in the world. He added that the incident was the result of inflammable gas escaping. He said that the Kingdom pays no heed to false claims by some groups about being responsible for the incident because the Kingdom is living in security and stability.

Regarding the oil pipeline that the Kingdom is currently constructing between the oil wells in the eastern region and Yanbu' port on the Red Sea, Dr Yamani explained that the main purpose of constructing this line is to industrialize the Yanbu' region and then to provide new outlets for exporting oil on the Red Sea in the event of problems arising in any oil-exporting region or as a result of environmental changes.

In reply to a question about future possibilities in the Middle East region if the peace initiative of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat fails, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani replied that as His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, his majesty's deputy and crown prince, has already stated, what the president has done surpasses all actions to date. Israel has proven that it has no real desire for peace, and the actions by which it wanted to deceive the world have been exposed and its expansionist designs have become clear to the world. His excellency noted that Israel has returned to its old expansionist spirit and is now hiding behind false claims, such as that a certain region is strategic for it and that it will not withdraw from this region. [words indistinct] Israel will continue its expansion unless world conscience moves to stop it and return it to its natural size and makes it feel that the modern era will not tolerate such forms of hated colonialism and violation of human rights.

Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani went on to say: It is time that Israel felt that it cannot proceed with further expansion and that lasting and just peace in the region cannot be at the expense of a people unjustly driven out of their country [words indistinct].

The minister of information praised President Carter's sincere efforts for peace in the Middle East.

His excellency called on the Arabs to reap the benefits from the situation created by President as-Sadat's initiative. He said: World public opinion has come to consider this initiative a point in favor of the Arabs and has come to better comprehend the dimensions of the problem. He went on to add: We are in a position which we must make use of to advance in convincing world public opinion of the need to apply pressure on Israel to return to reality and of what should be done for the rights of the Palestinian people who were unjustly driven away years ago.

His excellency replied to a question regarding the Kingdom's stand on establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and reports of international efforts to establish such relations. He said: The Kingdom has at no time had any relations with the Soviet Union. The stand of the Kingdom is clear and there is nothing new in this respect.

PAPERS COMMENT ON U.S. CONGRESS DEBATE ON AIRCRAFT DEAL

LD1310022 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0830 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--In their editorials today the Saudi papers deal with the attitude of the American Congress toward the aircraft deal for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel, the attempts of American President Carter to complete the deal and Israel's fight to prevent the conclusion of the deal. AR-RIYADH writes that Carter has tried to introduce amendments to the deal but Israel has refused [word indistinct].

The paper goes on to say that Zionism is seeking to monopolize American arms while denying them to the Arabs with the most feeble excuses, even at Israel's expense. It explains that the vote for or against the deal does not arouse the concern of the Arabs alone. It arouses the concern of the Americans themselves. The fight in the Congress is more of an American-Zionist fight than a Zionist-Arab fight, because the Arabs decided some years ago to diversify the sources of their weapons supply and to opt out of the monopolies spiral. The paper concludes its comment by saying that this may be the final opportunity to rescue U.S. foreign policy from the influence of world Zionist manipulation.

'UKAZ, in its comment, demands the continued Arab drive within the United States in order to achieve American pressure on Israel which would restore balance to the Israeli mind in order that it might face the achievement of peace in the Middle East. The paper writes that the aircraft deal was [word indistinct] for the American posture, which should rapidly move from the question of arms to the [word indistinct] peace in the Middle East according to the Arab conception of peace, which clings to the notion of land and peace at the same time. 'UKAZ goes on to say that Arab determination to regain the land must be accompanied by drives on all fronts and by exploitation of the relative change in the Arab standing in the eyes of the American public, which has begun to realize the nature of the Middle East problem and the role Israel is playing in obstructing all efforts to realize peace--the result of fanatical Zionist thinking. 'UKAZ stresses the need for the momentum of the Arab drive to be divorced from emotionalism and nervousness and to be armed with a calm logic and an awareness of international changes while mobilizing all Arab resources in order to back their right.

14 May Editorials

LD1412467 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 14 May--Saudi newspaper comment centers today on the leading role played by the Kingdom in safeguarding world peace and security. The comment also touches on the Zionist campaign to stop the U.S. plane deal with the Kingdom and Egypt.

AR-RIYADH affirms that the responsible role of Saudi Arabia in the issue of our nation and the world grows whenever the temperature of the problems rises and the danger against the nation increases.

The paper affirms that the forthcoming visit of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to France comes at a time when the Saudi momentum is at its peak. This momentum stems from Saudi Arabia's unchanging stands. It reflects the Arab nation's view and affirms its just rights. It explains to world conscience the road to peace in this strategic area of the world.

As for AL-BILAD, it deals with the uproar that has been raised about the U.S. planes deal. It affirms that the main aim of the political storm that has been created by Zionism is to hamper the deal, particularly with Saudi Arabia.

The paper says that a great number of U.S. officials and a large section of the U.S. public are eager to preserve the continuation of the close and friendly relations between the Kingdom and the United States. They know, and this is common knowledge, that Saudi policy is an example to be followed in international cooperation and that Saudi Arabia's military policy has never been and will never be an aggressive policy. Hence, Saudi Arabia's request for arms is based solely on its security requirements and on its sense that these arms are essential for defense against external ambitions and dangers.

In its editorial, 'UKAZ explains the responsibility that falls on the U.S. Senate concerning the planes deal, saying that this responsibility will be reflected in the development of U.S.-Arab relations. It says that the attitude of the U.S. Senate will be an indicator of prospects for Middle East peace and the realization of this peace.

It adds that one of the reasons for the difficulties in the peace talks is Israel's military power. The paper affirms that whatever stand the U.S. Senate may take, the situation will remain in the hands of the Arabs both in regard to peace and to armament because Arab power and Arab solidarity are two basic factors in realizing the aims of Arab struggle.

AL-MADINAH, in its editorial, links the campaign of international Zionism and the campaign by international communism against Saudi Arabia. It says that if the Zionists and the communists have common ground in their campaign against the Kingdom this agreement is natural because they have similar identity and they are united in having evil aims. They consider values, ideals and religion a great common danger that threatens their evil aims and objectives.

The paper explains that these campaigns come as a natural reaction to the steadfastness of Saudi Arabia as a major spiritual force in the world, against atheism and the denial of God--an ideology in which international communism plays a leading role in company with international Zionism.

The paper says that if the current battle in the United States ends in favor of upholding the wishes of the American people, there is no doubt this will contribute toward weakening Zionist tyranny in the United States. Consequently, it will help Washington play a much more balanced role in one of the issues which is so dangerous to world peace and security.

EGYPT'S VICE PRESIDENT HUSNI MUBARAK ARRIVES IN RIYADH

LD141826Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1650 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 14 May--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak arrived in Riyadh this evening for a short visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of Riyadh; Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary in charge of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry; Ahmad Thabit, Egyptian ambassador to Riyadh; and by a great number of military and civilian officials. Husni Mubarak's visit is the first leg of a tour of a number of Arab states.

Meets With Crown Prince

LD141824Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and crown prince, received Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak at 1930 at Al-Ma'dhar royal palace.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary in charge of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry; and Ahmad Thabit, Egyptian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Talks Begin

[illegible]183[illegible] Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1742 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] Official Saudi-Egyptian talks began this evening at Al-Ma'dhar royal palace between Prince Fahd and Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian vice president, who conveyed a message from President Anwar as-Sadat on the latest developments in the Arab issue.

On the Saudi side, Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, and 'Abd ar-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary in charge of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, took part in the talks. Taking part on the Egyptian side was Dr Usama al-Baz, under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

SNA has learned that the talks covered the latest developments in the Arab nation, relations between the two countries and the Middle East problem in general.

YAR

EGYPTIAN PAPER REPORTS REBELLION IN YAR

NC130947Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 May--The Cairo newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports today that YAR Command Council Chairman Ahmad al-Ghashmi is still in control of the situation in the YAR, following a rebellion which was staged by Maj 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Alim, member of the Command Council and commander of the YAR paratroop forces, last week.

The paper says that Maj 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Alim staged a mutiny by 500 paratroopers and 'amaliqah [giants] forces, who were able to occupy a military fortress in southern Yemen on the border with the PDRY.

The paper notes that Chairman al-Ghashmi offered Maj 'Abd al-'Alim the post of vice president for military affairs or that of YAR ambassador to France, but that he refused.

The paper says that Chairman al-Ghashmi is still trying to end the rebellion peacefully.

PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN141312Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received the Soviet ambassador in San'a' at 1000 today. During the meeting, talks were held on relations between the two friendly countries.

AS-SADAT SPEAKS ON CORRECTIVE REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

NC141108Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0957 GMT 14 May 78 NC/JN

[Speech by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to People's Assembly in Cairo on occasion of seventh anniversary of the May 1971 Corrective Revolution--live]

[Text] In the name of God, Mr Speaker, brother and sister members of the People's Assembly: Today, 14 May, is a day which millions of Egyptians mark every year with the fondest memories and the happiest feelings because of the historic and radical change in the building of our nation and its shift from the coercion of the centers of power to the supremacy of the will of the masses; from the threat to the security and livelihood of the citizens to the citizens' freedom to enjoy all their political and social rights, to be secure against any aggression, to be honorable, to be masters of their own land, to be human beings whose humanity is unaffected by slogans, and to be able to fight with all the dignity of man to uphold the humanity of mankind everywhere and at all times.

On 14 May 1971, new history was created on this rostrum under this dome. It was a bright page in the annals of the struggle of this generation for freedom and dignity, led by honorable men with an iron will which manifested itself most clearly, forthrightly and courageously, undeterred by any threats. The honorable men thus added a bright star to the Egyptian people's heritage, depicting their continuous battles to build a free Egypt, a humane Egypt, an Egypt capable of vanquishing anyone who sets out to vanquish it, and an Egypt always capable of charting its own course, making its own decisions, and defeating all the forces of oppression and aggression.

Brothers and sisters, if you recall our meeting under this dome on this day 6 years ago, on 14 May 1972; if you recall together the words which I uttered from this rostrum--prompted by my responsibility to God, the masses, and you representatives of the people--you will recall that I made two pledges to the people. The first pledge was that we would go to battle to liberate the territory in order to raise our heads after the June 1967 blow which was meant to keep our heads bowed forever. The first pledge was to go to battle to liberate the territory. The second pledge was that we would fight, using the weapon of democracy, to build the state to insure a dignified life on a land free from all the enemies of man. These were two pledges and two battles. The first battle was the battle of arms and of facing death in the fight against foreign occupation, and the second battle was the battle of democracy, the battle to eliminate the obstacles in the way of democracy and to protect democracy from its enemies. While there were differences in the nature of their preparations and performance, the two battles were in fact one battle in one field, the aim being to build man as a means and an end, through struggle and victory, in honor and dignity.

To be more precise, concerning my first pledge to you from this platform on 14 May 1972, I told you that "We will enter the fateful battle because we do not accept the conditions that are designed to be imposed on us. We will enter the fateful battle regardless of the sacrifice and cost involved. We will pay this sacrifice, God willing, and we will fight our battle and we will not compromise our will or one centimeter of our land or the Arab land." [applause]

I thank God Almighty that our heroes in the armed forces fulfilled the pledge and made the sacrifices on behalf of all of us. The glorious epic of October turned all military concepts upside down and restored to Egypt and the Arab nation the honor of existence and life.

We are continuing the battle of liberation through an appeal for peace. This appeal is reverberating around the world from one end to the other, and is winning the support and backing of millions of people in all continents of the world. The historic Egyptian initiative has become a universal demand and the cause of every person. We have become the Mecca of respect and appreciation. Our words are now heard everywhere. This was the first pledge which I promised you, a year and a half before the battle.

Concerning the second pledge, I also told you from this platform on 14 May 1972--I told you verbatim: We want a real, actual and sound exercise of the democratic experiment we began on 15 May 1971. The permanent constitution has come into being and a stage has begun in which powers will be vested in institutions. I said this verbatim 6 years ago.

I also said: In order to insure a sound exercise and in order to make the experiment successful, we must adhere to three controls: 1) we must comprehend the facts about the experiment; 2) we must be able to lay down rules and controls for our general behavior; and 3) we must be ready to firmly draw the limits between constitutional and political institutions. Naturally, the basis for all this is that there must be good will and good behavior. There should be no maneuvers or outbiddings. There must be a feeling of responsibility and duty. We must rise above selfish motives. Every problem can be solved by dialog. A mistake is permitted if it stems from good will. A deliberate mistake is tantamount to sabotage.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly, we met again on 14 May 1973. We had declared the beginning of a state of comprehensive confrontation. I had also determined my fate and made my decision to take over the premiership in addition to my other burdens. At that time no one knew that the zero hour was approaching. Doubt-casting campaigns were escalating feverishly, describing us as defeatists and capitulationists. The aim of these campaigns was to see us blow ourselves up from within.

Perhaps you remember with me what I told you on that day, 14 May 1973, verbatim: We will be living in a stage of comprehensive confrontation for a long time. During this coming period we will build our new society and liberate our land. Both tasks will be carried out simultaneously.

I reiterated that this is a stage of sacrifices because anyone who wants to occupy his position, regain his dignity and restore his presence must shoulder the responsibility of all this and must accept the sacrifices.

I also told you literally that if we want liberation and rebuilding, then there must be no outbiddings and class bias and that we must never permit maneuvers and must always return to the true foundations of our people: firmness, nobility and faith.

Brothers and sisters, it is necessary to recall these statements and memories when we are meeting on the anniversary of May 1978 to increase our confidence in ourselves, our course and our conduct. We do not talk aimlessly nor do we use glittering slogans on a glittering occasion only to have the slogans forgotten soon and the effect of the words dissipated soon in an intellectual emptiness and a retreat from principles.

The signs along the road have been clear, well-lit and bright since we began our march, because we do not think or act in a vacuum. On the contrary, we always proceed in our march from the three values of our land: firmness, nobility and faith. These values are the prerequisites of our struggle; they will not subside or abate in the two great battles of rebuilding and liberation. I thank God that we are meeting today on the May anniversary when we have made much progress along this course. The liberation battle has led us to the peace battle. You are following all that is happening and all facts have been declared to you openly.

The battle of rebuilding has led us to the first free and clean elections, a fact admitted by enemies and friends. It later led us to the formation of the parties under a stable and sound constitutional entity, under a government which rules in the name of the majority, and under an opposition expressing other views. It is a stable and sound constitutional entity venerated by a justice which is lofty in its sanctity and independence and under which the power of the pen and opinion grows in a press liberated of all censorship restrictions.

Brothers and sisters, it becomes clear from our review of these memories--my talk to you 6 years ago and the pledges I made about what we will accomplish in the battles of liberation and reconstruction, whose main target is the Egyptian man [sentence left incomplete]. I thank God Almighty for enabling me to fulfill the pledges I made to you. We have entered the two battles together and we are continuing these battles.

The day 14 May, if you permit me to say so, has a grave and great significance in the history of our people.

On the previous day, 13 May, the centers of power were working to bring about a constitutional collapse through the resignation of all those who held key posts. They imagined that the vacuum created by their collective resignation would cause a constitutional collapse, a collapse of all the state institutions. That was the situation on the evening of 13 May. It was a Thursday. On 14 May, the People's Assembly day, a Friday, the assembly convened on the initiative of no one outside the assembly. I personally did not know about the meeting. I was at Al-Qubbah Palace. President Numayri had just arrived from Sudan to reassure himself about the situation. I was there, busy forming the new cabinet, having accepted the resignations of the centers of power, or of those of them who submitted their resignation. The cabinet was being formed. On that day the cabinet actually took the constitutional oath, less than 24 hours after the moment which they imagined would mark the constitutional collapse.

While in Al-Qubbah palace, I really did not know [about the assembly meeting] because, as I have said, I was busy forming the new cabinet under Dr Mahmud Fawzi. Everything was proceeding normally. At noon, while I was still at the palace, I was surprised to learn that the People's Assembly had convened and passed a resolution to withdraw the membership of all the centers of powers. If anyone asked me their number on that day, I would not have known. I knew the leaders, but I did not know their number, which was about 17.

So, the assembly convened, prompted by every member's conscience, his love for his country [illegible] [applause] They met and decided to withdraw the membership of the leaders of power. That was a big event, a great event in itself. The People's Assembly met on the spontaneous initiative emanating from the heart of every member. It withdrew the membership of 17 members, including the speaker and his two deputies. That alone was a revolution, aside from all that happened on 13 or 15 May. It was a revolution here on 14 May. This is why on this day the People's Assembly deserves every honor not only from the government but from all the people. On this day the People's Assembly and the people have every right to be proud of the sense of responsibility which overpowered everything else.

I have decided to come to you today. After 14 May 1973 I used to only send you a message. However, this year, I decided to come and celebrate this day with you and to review with you the two pledges and the two marches: the march of liberation and the march of construction which I promised you on the first anniversary, on 14 May 1972. You have heard me mention what I said on that day.

Concerning the liberation issue, I actually find nothing to add to what I told you on 2 May, when we celebrated Labor Day. In my speech then, I reviewed for you and all the people through Egypt's workers all the developments in the international and Arab positions concerning the question of liberation.

I want to deal here with the question of rebuilding which we pledged to carry out 6 years ago. I had no opportunity during the 2 May meeting to say all I wanted to you and exchange views together. There was no time to do so. Therefore, I greatly welcomed the 14 May anniversary to meet with you and to review the march of rebuilding. I previously said that the first item in this march is the democratic rebuilding of man. You heard me speak 6 years ago about the controls and the democratic march to safeguard our liberation march and our rebuilding march.

Before speaking about the democratic battle of rebuilding, I must go back a little. I must go back to the inception of the 23 July revolution. What I am about to say I have declared before, but today we need to remember and learn and to review the line of progress because we are all partners. I want to tell you, to tell the people and to tell history that the 23 July revolution does not have to defend itself or its revolutionary depths. [applause] If someone says that the 23 July revolution was only a coup, then he is wrong. He deserves our opposition. Every person has the right to believe what he wants. There is as yet no power that can fetter minds and influence thinking. But for someone to try to distort the history of Egypt and say that the 23 July revolution was just a coup backed by the people--then we may justly say to him: Stay where you are. You can believe what you want to believe, but do not present a false version of history to our sons and our future generations.

What has happened? What were the circumstances under which the 23 July revolution was carried out? The armed forces were the vanguard of this revolution. Most of them are still with us. Some are with us here in this hall and others are working in the press or as writers, and they are also found in other places. They are still with us and they were witnesses to this stage.

The 23 July Revolution was carried out as an alternative to a red and bloody revolution that was about to erupt. Why? Because the existing regime then became corrupt and was eaten by decay. The entire regime was worn out by decay. [applause]

There is no need for me to prove this. History proves it. The newspapers of that time also proved it. There are people who can also testify to this. There is no need for proof. The Cairo fire on 26 January 1952 was the first signal indicating what was going to befall the entire regime from the king to the lowliest politician, including the parties and their leaders. [applause]

The 23 July Revolution was carried out. At first they called it the blessed movement, the white movement and then the white revolution. This is true. It was a bloodless revolution as opposed to all previous revolutions.

We all know what happened when the French Revolution broke out. Blood ran like rivers. In the end the revolution turned on itself and disintegrated. However, up to this day and until doomsday, history will write that the French Revolution was a turning point between two stages in the history of the world. The first stage was the stage of feudalism, which said that the baron, count or nobleman was the owner of the land and those who lived on it. All this ended with the advent of the French Revolution. The broad base of the French people fully restored their right to liberty, fraternity and equality under the principles of the French Revolution.

No politician in France today can hope or expect to become a political leader or a ruler unless he wins the confidence of the people. Before the French Revolution, the feudalist or the nobleman used to own the land and those who lived on it. There was no one to call him to account. The French people restored their rights. Despite the setbacks which occurred later on--represented by the return of the monarchy after the republic and then the return of the republic, followed by another return of the monarchy and then the return of the republic--history did not turn back. The French people took their freedom and became the masters of their destiny up to this day and until doomsday. The French Revolution was and still is a turning point in the history of the whole world.

There are attempts to discredit the 23 July Revolution. This is regrettable indeed, because this is a distortion of history and an attempt to deny facts before our youths and our present generation. We know better than anyone else exactly what happened.

The 23 July Revolution has in effect given everlasting rights to the broad base of this people. No ruler in Egypt any longer has the right to claim for himself what the rulers claimed for themselves before the 23 July Revolution. [applause]

In other words, favoritism and heritage are no longer prerequisites for leadership. Money is not a prerequisite for leadership. [applause] The prerequisites for leadership after the 23 July Revolution are that a person who wants to assume responsibility must come from the broad base and not have only heritage, favoritism or money. [prolonged applause] No one can disregard this after the 23 July Revolution. If someone disregards this, then he is actually plowing the sea.

There is something which I want to put right for your sake and that of history, in order that you may endorse it in your minutes today as a document and as history. I have made promises to you and I thank God for enabling me to fulfill them. Help comes from God alone. I thank God.

As I have promised you, we are now pursuing democracy. I made this promise in 1972. Earlier in 1971, your assembly carried out the corrective revolution alone. What happened here on 14 May 1971 was a comprehensive revolution. You will remember that the detention camps were closed for good on 15 May. You are aware of this. All custodianship measures were canceled and the correction began. All abnormal measures were canceled. Despite the fact that we were preparing for the battle and despite the fact that we are still living in the conditions of the two battles of which I spoke to you, we decided to pursue democracy because it is the only and the main course for rebuilding the Egyptian man.

Some claim that the aim of the 23 July Revolution was to destroy a specific party. I want to tell you something. I can speak because, as you have read, even during the lifetime of 'Abd an-Nasir, I wrote in AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1953 describing the stages of establishing the organization [which carried out the July revolution.] I and some of my colleagues began this organization in 1939. 'Abd an-Nasir assumed the leadership of this organization 3 years later, in 1942.

As I was saying, what state was the country in before the 23 July Revolution? There was the Cairo fire, as you all know. The parties and leaders were worn out. It was a lamentable situation indeed. It is a situation we must not revive now as we look ahead. We must move forward with all our energies instead of turning back.

If you go back to what I wrote in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1953, over 28 years ago, you will see that at the beginning of my work in the free officers organization to pave the way for the revolution, I contacted the late Shaykh Hasan al-Banna, leader of the Moslem Brotherhood at the time. You will also see that on my second or third meeting with him, I explained to him, in the clearest and frankest terms, that the army's revolution would not seek to serve any particular party, group, or faction. I told him that the army's revolution would be a national revolution for Egypt, and the people of Egypt, and not for any body, party, or group whatsoever.

You will see this in what I wrote in 1953. This is what I told Shaykh al-Banna, may God bless his soul. 'Abd an-Nasir took over [leadership of the free officers] in 1942 after I was detained and dismissed from the army in the summer of 1942. 'Abd an-Nasir and I had not even met because 'Abd an-Nasir was not even in Cairo when I was dismissed from the armed forces and sent to a detention camp. When he arrived in Cairo I was already in detention. Still, you will also see [from what was written in 1953] that during the meeting between Jamal and Shaykh al-Banna, may God bless both their souls, Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir told Shaykh al-Banna the same thing I had told Shaykh al-Banna, though 'Abd an-Nasir and I had never met. He told him that the army's revolution was for the sake of the people, and not for the sake of one group, party or organization. So, how can it be said that the aim of the revolution was to destroy one particular party? This is a misconception and we can do without it as we look ahead and as we all shoulder gigantic responsibilities. Why this falsification of history, and why this claim that the revolution was staged on account of a particular party? No, the revolution feared no party. It feared no one. Evidence of this is the fact that the two big powers, the British and the king, who humiliated and enslaved everyone, were finished off by us in the first 3 days of the revolution. We were afraid of no one. We feared nothing at all.

I am saying this so that the real history will be written and so that history will not be falsified, because that would be a shame.

What had we done? I say it to you in all frankness and clarity, we had not prepared ourselves to govern. You have heard me say that if anyone were to enter the room where the Revolution Command Council was meeting for the first time after the expulsion of the king--on 27 July 1952--he would have seen wonders. There we were looking at one another. We had expected the king to wage a battle, and if he did not wage a battle we thought that the British would wage his battle for him. They had 80,000 troops in the canal base, equipped with tanks, planes and everything else. Months earlier the British awarded the king the rank of honorary general in the British Army. So, it was unthinkable that they would abandon him.

On 27 July, we found ourselves sitting there looking at each other. The king was already finished. The British--I have already told you the story about the time when I was in the Mustafa Pasha barracks on 26 July when the king left after it was announced that he had signed his abdication and would depart at 0600. I have told you that the British charge d'affaires came to the Mustafa Pasha barracks. I was there on behalf of my brothers in the command because they were almost all in Cairo. I was there in connection with the task of deporting the king.

The British charge d'affaires came because the ambassador was on leave. He was accompanied by the military attache, who was dressed in a military uniform. They entered. We asked them what they wanted. They said: "We want you to preserve the rights of the Muhammad 'Ali family." They said this, despite the fact that the king ceded the throne to his son. They said they wanted protection to be given to the Muhammad 'Ali family.

Regarding the second point, they said: "We want you to declare a curfew because foreigners' lives are in danger." They used the same old excuse that the minorities and the foreigners were in danger and should be protected. We had a very interesting conversation with the British charge d'affaires. On that day, 26 July, Britain knew its place in Egypt for the first time.

I asked him a direct question. I asked him: What have you to do with the Muhammad 'Ali family? Is it a branch of the British royal family? He said: No. I told him: Then why do you care about them? Moreover, regarding the curfew, we are in charge. We do not accept reservations, like the reservations mentioned in the 28 February statement.

It was a long session. In the end I told him: Give me the paper from which you are reading. He said: No, my government has not told me to convey anything to you. We came as friends to give advice. I withdraw all my words [as heard]. This took place on 26 July.

It is a shame and unfair to compare the 1952 and 1919 revolutions. The circumstances in 1919 were different from those in 1952. The aims of the 1919 revolution were different from those of the 1952 revolution. Why should the people be told lies?

We overthrew the king and put an end to British influence in the first few days, something which no one had dared to do before. How could anyone undermine the 23 July revolution in such a way?

Once, the consul for eastern affairs at the British Embassy, who was an employee holding the post of consul, came to this hall, this assembly, which was then a national assembly. There are several posts in the foreign office: consul, secretary, minister plenipotentiary, charge d'affaires and ambassador. A consul's post is the lowest of these posts. This event is written in the records of the National Assembly. The consul for eastern affairs at the British Embassy came and met with the chairman of the National Assembly in his office. The result was that the minutes of one session of the assembly were canceled.

[illegible] one s[illegible] a thing has happened since 23 July 1952? It is a shame to comp[illegible] and it is a [illegible] to attempt to distort history.

I want one who is still living and who was a member of that assembly to speak up. I want Fikri Abaza to tell this story.

I have said that we must speak and must not be afraid of anything. We must tell the truth and our course of action must be clear.

It is a funny story. How can a comparison be made? I do not want to waste time in comparing.

When we started to draft a law on parties, as I told you, we were not preparing ourselves to rule at all. On 27 July [as heard], we were surprised, by God, as I am telling you, looking at each other, not knowing what to do. We did not have a program. We did not prepare the ministerial posts nor did we know how to distribute them. We prepared nothing at all. This was not on our minds. We carried out the revolution to reform the situation and to tell the parties to purge themselves and then come to take over power.

This is what we did. Our intention was not to prefer one party to another. They were all treated equally, except for two parties, the National Party and the Socialist Party, called "Young Egypt."

All the other parties were involved in the regime with the king. They were involved in the leadership, command and everything else. That was not it alone. The consul for eastern affairs canceled the minutes of one of the assembly's sessions. He was in the habit of humiliating all their excellencies the Egyptian leaders. This is a fact, believe me. Refer to the newspapers which are still available. When an official in the grade of consul at the British Embassy was kind enough to invite one of their excellencies the leaders for a cup of tea or coffee in his office, the whole world used to speak about the occasion. [applause]

Where is the fault in comparing the post 23 July Revolution conditions with the conditions which prevailed before the revolution? Have I not admitted mistakes and have we not criticized ourselves and our behavior in the 23 July revolution? I have made such criticism, admitted and corrected the course of the revolution through you and the people. We have corrected and are continuing to correct this course. Today, I come to you to correct the course again. [applause] We never prepared ourselves to govern. What have we done? We issued a decision. We first made an appeal to all parties to purge themselves and come and assume responsibility. The following are the only six principles of the 23 July Revolution which we have proclaimed: destruction of imperialism and its associates, destruction of feudalism, destruction of monopoly and the domination of capital, the establishment of social justice, the creation of a strong national army and the establishment of a sound democratic life. These are the six principles. We had no other principles. We issued our proclamation, which was published in the press. The press cannot mislead because the proclamation has been printed and will be available forever. We said: Purge yourselves of parties because there is a stench and all the people can see this. Purge yourselves and come and govern.

Moreover, we issued the law on organizing parties. Why would we issue the parties law if our intentions were not sincere? We could have waited until the parties purged themselves, or otherwise. We knew that the process was not easy but we wanted to prove to them that our intentions were good. We said: Come and take over. This is the law organizing the parties. If you go back to the newspapers, you will find a declaration by the Revolution Command Council stating that the elections were scheduled for February 1953, 7 months after the outbreak of the revolution. We undertook to hold elections. Nobody asked us or forced us to shoulder this undertaking. This was not a maneuver on our part. We brought 'Ali Mahir and imposed him on the king. We appointed him as the first prime minister after the outbreak of the revolution. Mahir made a statement cursing all parties, and he did not commit himself to the fixing of February as the date for the elections. As a result of this, we suspended the newspapers that night. The Revolution Council issued a statement saying that the prime minister has not declared that there will be elections but that the Revolution Council has committed to hold elections as scheduled in February 1953.

What should we say about this past process? The revolution has taken place and is continuing. It never feared and will never fear anybody. Following the issuance of the parties law, applications were submitted to form 21 parties. A purge followed. Every strong party dismissed two or three of its undesirable or tired members which it wanted to get rid of and came to us saying: We have carried out the purge. It is your turn now to carry out the elections and hand power over to us.

Well, there were certain politicians in some parties who had to be purged. When we asked the parties to purge themselves we were well aware of the situation, because no two people would disagree as to who was responsible for corrupting the political life in this country, not at all. We were surprised to see that those whose purge was requested were not thrown out of the parties. It was merely a maneuver. I have mentioned all this to say that the revolution has always been true to its principles. If certain mistakes were committed, I have most frankly and most clearly assumed responsibility and I have announced more than once that I am responsible for all that happened before the revolution--I mean before I assumed power in 1970. I am responsible for every action since the onset of the revolution on 23 July [1952]. I am saying it here before you for the record. I am responsible. Proceeding from this responsibility, I am rectifying matters. We have all rectified the course together. Instead of having the platforms [the term used for the organizations which existed before parties were allowed again in Egypt, and which later became parties] continue as such till the end of the 5-year legislative term, I said no. When I saw that the campaigns of the three platforms were waged on completely party bases, I say why then delay the application? Let us allow the formation of parties and let them operate as parties. You introduced the party law. On the basis of this law a fourth party emerged in addition to the other three. In other words, when we promise something we do it. If mistakes were committed in the past, I have corrected them, as I have already said.

I have said that I am responsible and that I will rectify everything. However, is the course now--and I have come to you to rectify it because it needs rectifying--is the course today as it should be? Or is the political practice up to the level of our present responsibilities and battles? I say no.

I say it to you frankly. As I have told you, we are in this together and we share the responsibility. We are responsible for the democratic course. I begin by saying that I have no objection whatever to multiparty systems. On the contrary, in the paper on reform I spoke about opinion and counteropinion. The platforms emerged without anyone asking. It happened in your assembly here.

At the opening of your legislative term the platforms became parties, and the law organizing parties was promulgated. Another party was born. Another one or two more parties may still emerge. After this legislative term--that is, after three sessions--10 or 15 other parties will emerge for sure because there is no special requirement as to any particular number of People's Assembly members. Fifteen or 20 other parties will emerge and the democratic process will go on. However, as I have said, I am sorry. This is not what we want for our country, or, rather, this is not what we have agreed upon, not at all.

The party organizing law has been promulgated. Here, allow me to review the whole course. The party organizing law was promulgated. It laid down certain principles for every party and allowed the formation of any party, provided it fulfilled these principles. We have seen that a fourth party has been formed in addition to the other three. The same law says that a party should have a publication expressing its views. This is the simplest thing in the exercise of democracy, that a party should have its own newspaper without permission from anyone.

For the first time in Egypt's history, three newspapers are being published without a prior permit from the interior minister, the cabinet or the Information Ministry. In the past a permit was required. However, now, under the law which you promulgated, every party has a right to have its own newspaper. So three parties have emerged with three papers. The fourth party is preparing its own publication.

Well, we are in a battle. We said in the law organizing the parties that the parties must abide by social peace, democratic and socialist solutions and national unity, and that these principles must not be violated. Shouldn't there be penal clodes to enforce this? In the absence of laws and the most important controls, the exercising of democracy should undoubtedly allow for the freedom of criticism and expression within an ethical framework. I believe that this is basically essential for our march. It is not our march but also our values which demand this. Our values in this country put limits on everything. This is why I want to tell you to prepare and issue a law to be called the shame law [qanun al-'ayb]. [applause]

I am serious. I mean what I say. It is not shame such as that related to private ownership, which is safeguarded. It is a shame which we inherit from the village and which relates to values, limits and ideals, what can be said and what cannot be said, where to stop and where to walk. Do not be angry with me. What has happened here in the People's Assembly [sentence left incomplete].

This assembly is supposed to be and must be a school because it holds the supreme legislative power in the areas of legislation and supervision. I believe that all of you will agree that the guarantees granted to this assembly by the constitution have not been provided in the 1923 constitution or the constitutions of the democratic states and the mother of democracy, England. The queen can dissolve the House of Commons at any moment upon the request of the prime minister. She can dissolve parliament even 1 hour after elections, if the prime minister requests this, and new elections will be held.

I had a complex because of the constitution which was a grant from King Fu'ad. I also had a complex because of the dissolution of the assemblies and the king's authority to dissolve the assembly. This is why I said that we will provide guarantees. The president of the republic has no right now to dissolve the People's Assembly unless as a result of a public referendum. This means that there must be a disagreement among the branches of government, which compels us to refer to the people to give their opinion. This is the only instance when the president of the republic can dissolve the assembly and only after the people's approval. However, the dissolution decision must also announce the holding of new elections and fix their date. Why? We have not had a single day of vacuum without a parliament or a constitution since 1971, when the permanent constitution was issued and parliamentary life began. The first People's Assembly has completed its 5-year term. You are members of the second assembly and I hope you will complete your 5 years [applause].

Moreover--I am speaking in the assembly and speaking about the assembly--the constitution has guaranteed all freedoms, but not only the constitution. No. While serving as speaker of the People's Assembly in 1966 I submitted the bylaws under which you are working today. There was nothing called applications for information.

I introduced these applications for information. Why? Because in any incident taking place outside the assembly and requiring immediate action by the competent minister, the assembly has to start questioning. You know the procedures of questioning. The minister has to be notified first. His name has to be included in the agenda and a time must be fixed for him. These are long procedures. If something happens which the assembly must know about--the people must also hear about it because the assembly is the representative of the people--the minister can be questioned about any incident within 1 hour. This is possible. This is the basis of the application for information which I included in the bill I submitted. Also for the first time, I introduced the system of hearing committees. These were not provided for in all our previous constitutions; and I was involved in our constitutions from the outbreak of the revolution until I was elected president of the republic.

There were no hearing committees. The philosophy behind these committees is that the assembly should not pass any law until all those who will be affected by the law have expressed their opinion on it. For instance, an assembly committee discussing the tax law will bring in representatives of the financiers and taxpayers. When discussing any other law, the assembly must call in those primarily affected by this law. Thus, the people actually participate in the decision-making. This is what we mean by the hearing committees.

I also strengthened the factfinding committees. In the past, these committees were ineffective under the old laws. I reinforced and expanded these committees. I also developed the assembly's leadership. In the past, the assembly's office consisted of the speaker, two deputy speakers and six secretaries. Of the latter, two secretaries were elected. I said: No, the office must become a permanent committee consisting of the chairmen of all the parliamentary committees and representing all trends. Thus the assembly is no longer being run by a small office but by a very broad base--namely, the chairmen of committees. I personally insured all these guarantees in Bill No 66 submitted to the assembly a year before the 1967 disaster.

My intention was for the assembly to play its complete role. There should be other guarantees in addition to these. You know about the behavior of [illegible]--and I will discuss this subject further when I come to speak about [illegible]ies--the country is unfortunately full of doubt-casting and rumors. The line of doubt-casting is well-known. Doubt-casting is the first step toward losing confidence in something. We know about this doubt-casting, the people behind it and the ideologies prompting it. They have to cast doubt on everything. There is a campaign of doubt-casting. The assembly must stop this campaign, it must not participate in it, nor must any of its members participate in it. The assembly must stop it. How? It must stop it through frankness and clarity. Why do you not speak clearly instead of making hints and innuendos. So and so is accused of such and such a thing. He should stand up and prove whether he is guilty or not guilty.

In view of the guarantees which the constitution has insured for the assembly as the highest legislative authority in the country, no person in this country--I am not speaking just about the ministers but about any citizen in this country--should be the object of suspicion or defamation. If this applies to the citizens, then it should apply to the ministers. We should not use inappropriate expressions.

As I said, the assembly must be a school reflecting all the values of the country and safeguarding them, which is why I am suggesting that you should formulate a law to be called the law of shamelessness. Why? Because the People's Assembly, and the parties, are a school reflecting the values which our future generations will uphold.

This is all I wanted to say about the People's Assembly. The constitution has given you all the guarantees and freedoms. I do not believe that anyone has tried to interfere in your work in any way. I do not think so. If there has been anything, tell me. Nobody has tried to impose anything on the assembly or strike any of the assembly's minutes.

It never happened and it will never happen. Why? Since the 23 July Revolution, there is a new situation. I have advice for you: record by yourselves and for yourselves. Do not understand me as dictating anything to you. No. I want the exercise to be healthy. Record the questionnaires by yourselves and for yourselves. The questionnaires are actually accusations. You heard me say on May Day that when a questionnaire used to be submitted, the earth would shake. Why? Because it is an accusation. I do not want anyone to think that I am placing restrictions on you. Not at all. This is an issue which is up to you. You have the lists and your rights are protected by the constitution. No one can harm you. However, in my position as an arbitrator among powers, I want the march and the procession to proceed on its proper course. Place the controls which you are convinced of. No one is dictating anything to you. I repeat that no one will dictate anything to you. Not at all, not to any institution of the state.

I want to move on to the executive power. I spoke on May Day and made several remarks, although regrettably some people are trying to exploit these remarks to take us back to the pre-1952 era. Their objective is to achieve power, to slander, to cast doubt, and cause chaos at any cost, as if we have not learned from what has happened since 1922 when they gave us semi-independence and made fools out of us through the constitution and the parliamentary life and the cabinet. The goal was aborted. Instead of the 1919 revolution being directed against the British--the main enemy of the country--and instead of having the main battle in the country being geared toward the goal of achieving Egypt's independence, they made fools out of them through the constitution.

They began to quarrel among one another and to split from one another until we reached the point where we had so many parties before the revolution--parties which alternated in power when in fact they were one party to start with. However, the lust for positions, showing off, selfishness and individualism made them forget about the British and they began quarreling among themselves until in 1952 we moved and told them: This is enough. We want to look after the country's interest.

In our democratic practice, I regret to say that we are going back to the pre-1952 era. I am following up the practice and I am watching what is going on.

I found out first that there is a general situation in the country. [sentence as heard] As I did first, actually I worked for--as I told you--every citizen and his family to be reassured about his present and future without any visitors at dawn or extraordinary measures. The martial law exists, but has anyone felt it for even one day? The martial law was not used at all. I promise you that it will not be used, God willing, because there is no need to use it. We do not need any extraordinary measures and we are not afraid of anyone. Not at all. However, will there be limits or shame if there is no punishment? I think that any violation of values is a very serious matter. Nevertheless, we find some people who defend such a thing. I am not saying this because such talk harms me. When a deputy stands among you in the middle of this assembly and abuses the assembly and the president of the republic, what does it mean?

I do not remember the incident itself, because as I told you, this matter does not harm me.

What I fear is that if chaos and indifference start from this hall, this will cause a great catastrophe because it would affect all levels. We have no need for this now. Besides, this would find people outside the country who would defend it. The significance of this is not because I am the president. No, never. I want every president of this country to be, as I said, the head of the family and not a president who rules with an iron fist. No, I want him to be a head of the family. I began with myself. I make all feasible guarantees for the success of the democratic march. It has never happened in history that a ruler voluntarily gives up all this and hands it over to the institutions of the legislative, executive and judicial authorities and to the fourth estate, that is, the press. This has never happened, but our people have values which we must maintain.

We go back to the period prior to 23 July. There were recriminations and then an attempt. No, it was not an attempt but deliberate doubt-casting. I did not read about this subject until after some time had passed. I asked for it and read it. A man who cursed was asked about it. He said: I only wanted to tell the president that the people are hungry and that 'Ali Shafiq took 1 million pounds from the government. What is all this about? It means that there are troubles in the country which we all are feeling. From this platform I have often told you and I repeat it now: Let us not exploit the suffering of the people, because we are all in the same boat. The suffering is by no means caused by corrupt party methods as is said. No, there are mistakes. Mistakes can be corrected through action. Everyone who works makes mistakes. As I told you now there is nothing to mistakes made by good intentions. Mistakes made from good intentions are easy to rectify. This is no problem. Inexcusable mistakes are those that are made deliberately. This is an act of sabotage. The country is tired and strained, and Cairo in particular is very strained. I find many strange things. Certain people in Cairo stand up and say the president does not know who appeared with him in the photo yesterday.

Why is this? And so on and so forth. A discussion takes place on affairs. What is this uproar? When I meet a businessman from abroad, they say: Why is the president meeting with him? Why does he meet with a rich businessman and so on and so forth? I do not understand this uproar in the country. Of course it is possible for anyone to exploit this. It is possible for anyone with bad intentions to repeat this line. I cautioned you and said: Let us not exploit the situation we are experiencing because we did not cause it. The situation existed before. It will continue and we will remain in a bottleneck until 1980. We still have 2 and 1/2 years. We want to cooperate and find the best possible solutions to mobilize our country and to help the broad toiling classes in their suffering.

In the midst of this, certain people cast doubts and say that 'Ali Shafiq took 1 million pounds. What does this mean? It means that the 23 July Revolution is not all right and that they are the honest and not corrupted people. These acts may seem insignificant but I will bring them down to size because I am concerned about the democratic march and its success, and about moving forward and not going back at all. I consider this an extremely serious act. With this chaos, the process began to spread out through old party practices in one professional trade union--the bar syndicate itself--which is supposed to be the protector of right and of freedom of speech. What happened to the bar syndicate and why? Why this chaos and indifference? Is abusing the state or the president of the republic courage and political action? We are going backwards again. This time it will be worse. Why? Because the last time, they were afraid of the king and the British. This time, no. If we go backwards, it is finished. They would be taking the country into a catastrophe and a disaster. This is what I am anxious to prevent. However, to find this chaos and indifference and read about it or to see it happen as it did and to find people defending it, particularly in a professional trade union--the bar syndicate-- in which someone stands up to abuse the state and the president of the republic [incomplete sentence as heard]. I am not telling you about myself. The matter is absolutely not personal to me. My attitude toward you and toward the country is different. I do not take sides with any of my people I am responsible for, because as I told you before, God--praise be to him--and you wanted to place me in this position, and therefore, there will be no animosity between me and any one of you. [applause]

Furthermore, I am responsible for this trust first before God Almighty, not before you. All this does not change things. Within the democratic process, are we today drawing up the criteria of excesses, unethical speech and the exploitation of democracy by taking advantage of the democratic process with the aim of destroying democracy? This is a regrettable matter. Unfortunately, we find certain parties defending such action. The parties call for such meetings. A certain party calls for a meeting, and someone stands up and says whatever he wants and abuses whomever he wants. No.

Furthermore, in the press--the fourth estate--there is chaos. As I said, the left in Egypt has never realized what it has acquired through the democratic process. The left was recognized for the first time in Egypt's history, while in the past it was an outcast which no one feared. [applause] We recognized the left, and as I told you, as soon as you issued the law, no one watched them. They started publishing their own journal and they did not need permission from the interior ministers, or the information minister or anyone. Why?

They said: You are including a clear provision in your law and we are on a march, and since the state is the state of institutions, every institution will publish whatever it sees fit for the march. When you issued your law, they went ahead and published their journal.

The left is making a very big mistake. Following its recognition as a party according to the law of the parties, it used its right to publish its own journal, begin its activities and do other things. This was necessarily accompanied by a change from past tactics, because in the past they were banned and did not have this right at all.

Unfortunately, they are not pursuing the very line they pursued when they were banned. They are causing confusion and doubt-casting. The paper is no more than a leaflet such as the ones they issued when they went underground. The paper is yours and you do not need to write in it the kind of things you wrote in your underground leaflets. In this democracy, you have a responsibility toward social peace, national unity and democratic socialism--the bases of any organization.

I do not think anyone needs to say that the ASU is interfering in the affairs of the parties, or is interfering in the affairs of the assembly. In the past they used to say that the ASU was not a party and so forth. Well practice has shown that the ASU has nothing to do with you. It has not interfered with the parties or the assembly. The ASU has entered the field through the widest doors. Unfortunately, the left has not realized that there has been a radical change which must result in a change in behavior and the course. They continued their old line. Their biggest mistake occurred on 18 and 19 January. In what way? My job here, through your cooperation and the cooperation of all the other institutions, is to insure security and safety for every citizen in his home, on the street, at his place of work, for his future, in his livelihood and in everything. What this matter requires most is social peace. What does this mean? It means there is no need to turn the classes against each other; there is not need to turn the people against each other. It must not be said that the country is becoming capitalist, that some are getting rich and the rest of the people are being deprived. We all know that the country is worn out and that we are trying to rectify the situation. I am asking you to pass the tax law. I will see if it is passed or not. If the law does not contain the things I want, I will return it to you so you will include my ideas. It will be up to you to examine it and include the things I want the way you want them to be.

Is it not a paradox that the one who writes such things has an income greater than that of the minister? Well, names are not supposed to be mentioned under the assembly bylaws. I introduced this myself. [laughter] Well, these are strange paradoxes, are they not? As I said on May Day, no one sees an end to this suffering. A single incident or matter keeps me awake all night. We are still trying. I am requesting the tax law from you. I went to see the new land [reclamation project]. I want to fulfill the hopes of our sons. The doors must not be closed to your aspirations; the doors must be wide open.

We are working to achieve all this. Therefore, I was astonished when some people said that our system is against the toiling classes. They are bewailing the toiling classes. This is the same old method they employed on 18 and 19 January. I considered that to be a turning point. If the protest was that the government had erred, we say: Yes, the government has erred and we rectified its error. You have read and heard everything. I was in Aswan. The prime minister contacted me and said that there was a demand to cancel the decisions. I said all right. Would it have hurt them if they had come here to the People's Assembly?

If they stage peaceful processions and ask the policy to protect them and go anywhere to express their opinion, would anyone arrest them? No. Not at all. However, does a people's uprising mean the robbing of the consumer complexes because of the supply crisis, or burning buses to resolve the transportation crisis, or burning the whole of Cairo to please themselves and make the people's uprising a success? This is the big mistake they made. They used the old tactics. Furthermore, Moscow Radio volunteered to help them by disseminating such talk as usual.

Therefore, I say that the exercise of democracy with these people must be reconsidered. Today, God willing, after this session--I wanted to talk to you first--I will get in touch with the secretary of the [ASU] Central Committee to take the measures provided in the parties law, which you have issued under the rule of the law. [applause]

However, there is one thing which I am putting in front of you with utmost clarity and frankness. There will be no leadership or information post or any post affecting the masses in Egypt for anyone who does not believe in the codes of God. [applause]

I say while I am talking to you with the utmost frankness that I want to place the whole experiment before you so that you might be informed of the march and so that we might understand what we are doing because we must not be misled, and we must always have the picture clear before us.

I would like then to move on to the fourth estate--the press. There has been a coup in the press. I spoke about what happened in certain professional unions, such as the Bar Association. I take this opportunity to say that every body or institution must be responsible for its own members. The press is a party to this process of chaos. It seems that the new interpretation of democracy is that it should lack of good manners and attack Egypt--their country--because as I said the committed leftists are writing this. Those who are not committed are not doing this thing. They are saying that the state's official religion is Islam, and we are not prepared to deal with anyone who denies religions.

There is a campaign of Baghdad Radio. They call themselves the league of writers, so and so and so and so. Some of these are still members of the Egyptian press syndicate. They are committing slander.

We all know about Paris. The shop which used to be open in Beirut--the mercenary, yellow press--is now open there in Paris, and two states are financing this shop--Libya and Iraq. They are Egyptian editors whose leanings you know.

What is even more cunning, there is the one who enjoys the cover of security, protection and all rights in Egypt, but because he wants to live a certain standard of living, he sells his pen to any paper in any Arab country in order to earn money and live the life he is leading. He asked to slander Egypt and Egyptian policy.

The only thing they are required to do is to abuse Egypt and the line of Egypt. All this must be stopped. Today. Also I will inform the press doyen and the syndicate of all these matters in utmost frankness. Let us not be courteous at all when it comes to right. [applause]

I hope that you will perform your responsibility, because there are some people who are taking advantage of the opportunity of democracy to write to mix things up.

I will write to the People's Assembly speaker without apologies to anyone. Let us be clear. The attempt to exploit democracy, distort and cast doubts is rejected as of today. Democracy, yes, and a state of institutions, yes. But exploitation and attempts to distort facts or give only half the truth to the people, with the rest lies--no. This is unacceptable.

I will write to you though the assembly speaker and put down everything frankly. I tell you now that discipline begins here. You are responsible for this and not anyone else. You take your decision on this.

What is regrettable, as I said, is that there are shaky people, as you heard me say, Cairo in 1973 and Cairo in 1978. At the beginning of 1973 I was surprised by the same campaign which was launched here in Cairo [words indistinct] that the cabinet is finished, the country is finished. They said all of this in 1973 and added that I became [words indistinct] and defeatist and that I would not fight. It is strange that they were saying this when I had given orders to Marshal Isma'il, may God have mercy on his soul. At that time we had begun the first stage [words indistinct] 2 months had passed since the forces were being trained on the task that was to be done in October. I said nothing. They said everything was over and that there was no use or hope and so on and so forth.

Then emerged the new party course, the party which wanted to return us to the state that prevailed before 23 July and to leave everything and say 23 July or [words indistinct], An-Nahhas Pasha and Sa'd Pasha or Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir. What is this nonsense? Were we to have such talk and to open the museums again? We will not open museums. [applause]

We want our march and limits to be clear. I tell you with all frankness and honesty because there is nothing to prompt me to conceal anything from you or for you to be surprised at anything, everything and everyone connected with the pre-revolution system, including the parties which formed minority or majority governments, with the exception of the two parties--the National Party and the Socialist Party--I say that I am compelled to return to the people on the basis of the constitution in order to ask: Should these people continue with us in the march or not? [applause]

I want you here to represent the leadership of his people and to be the ideal leaders and leaderships in all affairs. I want you to be the ideal in democratic behavior and fight the casting of doubts and defaming anyone merely because this is democracy and everybody can say anything. No, this is shameful.

I have told you that we are marching together and that we are partners. Therefore, I came here today to talk to you and to be frank with you before taking any action. I tell you frankly that some are trying to return to the old methods of destroying and tarnishing everything. They say, for example: As-Sadat today met with 'Uthman, that this 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman is supervising food security, that the ministers take orders from him. You tell all the people and tell everybody. We are one family and I welcome anybody who has anything to offer. Tell the people because you know; tell them that the state of institutions is clear. Anything that belongs to the executive authority is dictated to the executive authorities. Nobody in the Council of Ministers makes the decisions. The ministers are here and I tell you that no minister makes the decisions. Anything that belongs to the legislative authority comes right here to you. I do not know if anybody came here trying to direct you or to impose something on you. There is no multiplicity and nobody, for love of publicity, can try to cast doubts.

I am sorry to say that it is I who am being subjected to these doubt-casting attempts. They say that there are some unofficial people who interfere in the government. If somebody interferes here in your assembly then it follows that he is interfering in the rest of the authorities, namely, the executive, the judiciary and the press, which is the fourth estate. Nobody is interfering. Some people said that even in the democratic process we are being isolated.

Concerning the issue of the pyramid area, I have already told you that any project which is presented might have some mistakes. It is also probably that such a project might need amendments and adjustments. Everything is possible. Long ago and in this hall--they wanted us to return to such times--all the issues were agreed on before being presented to the assembly. There used to be certain demands by the English or by the parties--demands which serve the interests of their allies and friends. Now this is no longer the case. Therefore, I have told Mamduh Salim that if the pyramid area project is wrong, study and correct it. This is not a problem. If it can be corrected, correct it; if it cannot, then cancel the whole contract. Nobody is forcing us to make decisions and nobody has any business doing so. To assure you on this point and to tell all these people to mind their own business, I will give you the example of armaments. You know that doubts are created when you buy arms. Four years ago, not recently, not yesterday and not last year, but 4 years ago--in fact since I made the decision to diversify the sources of arms--I was clear then and it is recorded with the prime minister that I sent letters to the heads of the Western governments with which we deal. I told them that arms sales must be conducted between one government and another with mediators. In this way I put my mind at ease. The other deals occurred thanks to our Arab brothers. They used to ask me what my needs were, and I would tell them I need 30 or 50 planes. Then our Arab brothers would sign the contract. I got my planes and they paid the money. If we in Egypt have to pay the money, then it is a different matter. It will be deals between one government and another, and it will be stated clearly that there are no agents. This is just to inform you how the traffic goes. We do not need anybody to remind us or to say one thing at home and another abroad. Those who go out to try to cast doubts--why do they not come here and say it frankly? I tell you and the people through you that everybody in Egypt has the right to inform the socialist public prosecutor about anything or to tell you anything he likes here in the People's Assembly. You must take action. Nothing would be covered up. Nobody should have speical interests and no exploitation must be allowed. There might be mistakes, but as I told you, those who work make mistakes, and committing an unintentional error does not mean that you are negligent.

I go back to 'Uthman. The president appointed him supervisor of food security. You know I was in Ismailia. For the first and last time I tell you this as an example because I have never been in a position of self-defense. Never. There is nothing to make me defend anything. However, I am giving an example because from now on I will severely punish, through democracy, anyone who lies, casts doubts or fabricates. Cars are on the streets with the name 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, it was said, so they are his property. I want to explain to you the affair of 'Uthman as an example to prove it in your document. In 1961 the Arab contractors company, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and company, was nationalized. Exactly 4.5 million pounds were taken from him. After that and not before, he offered to build the high dam and was awarded the tender. He finished the dam in 10 years. Now we come to the missile sites. You heard me say Egypt created a miracle. I did not tell you the whole story.

Forty days after [the bombardment] of Abu Za'bal and the Bahr al-Baqar School, 'Uthman built 40 million pounds' worth of missile and radar sites because the Russians stipulated that either you build us sites or we will not send you SAM-3 missiles which shoot down low-flying aircraft, such as those which hit Abu Za-bal and Bahr al-Baqar School.

I would like to affirm to you here that the Arab contractors did the greatest part of this. In 1 day and as a result of Israeli air strikes, Arab contractors lost 200 workers and engineers. They had orders to build the missile sites on the canal. The Jews were aware of this. They did not want to allow us to do this because they knew what the missiles would do to them once they were in place. The places were these people died still exist; go and see them. In 1 day 200 engineers and workers were killed. The Arab contractors have 40,000 workers, employees and engineers. This includes 2,000 engineers. Send a committee from your assembly to find the facts and see how much the Arab contractors company is worth. This company is the property of the public sector. See how much it is worth and see how its guarantees, insurance, salaries and all that it provides for every engineer and worker have developed. Go and ask about this.

The Arab contractors company [words indistinct] and the reporters said to him that every car in the street with the name 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and company is yours. These and the buildings in the center of Cairo on nationalization day were the property--all the property of 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman has been the propoerty of the public sector since nationalization day.

I want to say the following: There is sometning you do not know which I also want recorded in your document. At the peak of the nationalization process in which 'Abd an-Nasir accepted no argument or discussion [words indistinct], I told you that what was going on is that the man who owned one or five trucks was considered a capitalist and a feudalist. Finally, no one owned a truck or anything. In the late sixties in Libya and before its revolution broke out, a tender was awarded to the Arab contractors company. The Libyan Government told 'Uthman: We will give the tender to 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman but not to a public sector company. He said: But I have nothing. My company now belongs to the public sector. They said, no, we are afraid of Egyptian intelligence. When 'Abd an-Nasir learned about this matter--this matter is recorded and the documents will come to you at the peak of their stubborness, he issued a decision regarding a company in 'Uthman's name in Libya [as ward] so as to bring hard currency and machines and equipment. You remember there was time when our companies were finished and there were no new machines and nothing as a result of the isolation we imposed. I would like you to be sure of what I am saying for the first and last time. I do not like to defend myself because I will not put myself in a position of self-defense with anyone. I say this because I want to give you an example and the facts. I want you to know that the person who tries to reach me in a twisted way will find that I will meet him in a straight line. I will not go to him in a twisted way, but in a straight line.

As for the companies which were formed in Ismailia, I want you to go and see them. I want you to form your own committees; the companies represent integrated work for food security since they started operating 6 months ago. There are more than four or five companies. I would like to thank here the irrigation minister and also former Agriculture Minister Ibrahim Shukri, who is exploiting this virgin land; together with the governor, they are staging a green revolution. The land there, the area of which is estimated at 60,000-70,000 feddans, has become a model farm; they have a complete irrigation system, they have planted vegetables. You remember what I told them last summer.

However, when they planted their crops, they ran into difficulty with the merchants; it reached the point where the merchants refused to buy the crops so as to dictate prices. In other words, vegetable production is increasing.

Actually, my plan is for the canal area, Al-Fayyum and the area in Al-Qalubiyah to be sufficient to provide food for Cairo with a surplus as well. However, it is an integrated plan. It includes agriculture, agricultural mechanization, cattle raising, eggs and poultry. It is an operation which I would like you to see because it is a model and an integrated accomplishment which is an example of what Egypt should be in the year 2,000 in every district.

If we do this, we will be exporting, not importing food. We will have enough to eat and to export. I would like you to reassure the people. When I talk to someone, I talk to him for the sake of the public interest. There is absolutely no interference when it comes to me. If you have experienced any interference, let me know. Let me know if anyone has interfered and dictated anything to you or told you that he is coming to you on the authority of the president. This way we will be clear and, as I said, all of us will be heading forward; we do not need the existing turmoil.

After they started making accusations against 'Abd an-Nasir, I was saddened, and I spoke from this platform. This is the old method of casting doubts as well as causing destruction and malice--a mountain of malice. They would pick on somebody. Perhaps, it might suit some people after I complete my term, God willing, or leave this world, to make a case out of my career.

I am saying this because I want you to know that during the process of work life goes on, but values and limits should remain untouched. I will never relinquish values or limits.

In 1972 there was a difference between me and the Russians. I had seven requests which they told me they would fulfill after Nixon's visit to Moscow. The first request was that I wanted the maintenance on the engines of the MIG-21's, the Sukhois, the MIG-17's and all my planes to be performed at the Hulwan plants because Israel does its own maintenance in Israel.

Brezhnev agreed with me. In April 1972, I told him--and I swear that this was the way I said it--I am telling you, here are the keys to the aircraft plant. Come to Hulwan. This was in the middle of 1972. I knew when I would be waging my battle, and I had to be prepared. I could not go to war if the maintenance of the engines of my planes was being done 5,000 km away and through an insecure route. I could not guarantee that the Soviet Union would give me daily supplies or continue the supplies during the war. Even if the Soviet Union were to continue to give me supplies, how could I perform the maintenance 5,000 km away?

When Brezhnev agreed with me, I told him: Here are the keys to the aircraft plant. If you want to keep its workers, that is fine with me; and if you want to enlist the help of your own workers, that is also fine with me. However, I want the maintenance done in my own country so that when I go to war, I will not run into a situation where the engines which become defective will have to be sent 5,000 km away. During the war, there might be no route, no way out. In this case, every engine which becomes defective should be a liability for me. Meanwhile, Israel has its own maintenance facilities.

Our plant in Hulwan is capable of performing the maintenance and even more than that. However, out of caution, I told him: I will tell you the following: Send your own experts to the Hulwan plant. If the plant lacks any equipment for the completion of the maintenance--although I know that it has modern equipment and has everything. [incomplete sentence as heard]

I told him: Send the experts and see. If the plant needs equipment, I will pay you the price in hard currency. If the plant needs any equipment, I will even pay you the cost of its transportation in hard currency, because the cost of the transportation would not cost as much as the maintenance of 5 or 6 engines of the 100 engines I send him for maintenance every year. The cost of the transportation of five engines would cover all that I need. I told him I will pay in hard currency. You send the equipment and here are the keys to the plant. If new equipment is needed, please send your experts and I will buy it with hard currency.

When I returned from Moscow I was cornered. Why? Because we had no hard currency. I have acquainted you with the state of our economy. But I have personal ties with our Arab brothers. I sent for brother Khalifah--Shaykh Khalifah, ruler of Qatar--he is a brother and a friend, like all the rest of our brothers. I asked him to transfer 1 million pounds sterling. He did so very simply and immediately. When they told me then [sentence incomplete] (?I told them that you are generous) and please deposit this amount under my name in the Central Bank so that nobody can touch it. Why? Because I was expecting a reply from Brezhnev within 1 month and I was afraid that he would ask me to send him 1 million pounds as a down payment for the equipment, engines and transport charges.

This took place in 1972. Then 1973 passed and then 1974. In mid-1974, this is 2 years later, I was surprised when Dr Hijazi [the then prime minister] told me that he had found 1 million pounds in my name in the Central Bank. He said that he took the sum to buy supplies. I told him: From where did we receive this million? This is 2 years later--that is, if I had died during this time, somebody would have said that As-Sadat has 1 million pounds in the Central Bank. His name is in the Central Bank and he has money from abroad. No. The limits and values are known.

When Dr Hijazi said this, I said: Oh I forgot. However, I told Dr Hijazi that in view of the dispute between me and Brezhnev, I had the money ready, so that if he asked for the money, I could send it to him for the sake of the maintenance of the engines. Showing how the government operates, Dr Hijazi did not ask permission from me but took the money when he needed it and used it for supplies. He told me that he had found the money and had used it. These are our limits and values. We do not need anybody to guide us or to instruct us about what the limits and values are. We know the limits and values. But I want you to enact the law of shamelessness, so that they cannot go out of their way. I will not pardon anybody through the democratic process. Discipline means discipline. Freedom yes, democracy yes, but exploitation no and no.

I hope I have not taken a long time. [cheers] But my main concern is to tell you on the day of the corrective movement that we need rectification. My happiness is to place everything before you because we are all in the same boat.

I wanted to come to you today, brothers and sisters, and say that the memory of this day represents the end of the road which deprived the people of their right to freedom and democracy. This road is aimless.

As I say, anybody who belonged to the centers of power after the 1952 revolution, or anybody who participated in sabotaging the political life or carried out anything against the dignity of man after the 1952 revolution--I will consult with the people and ask them if he is to proceed with us or not. [applause]

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly, we are still in the stage of an all-out confrontation. We are confronting ourselves while we are confronting all our adversaries: our adversary who still wants land and evades peace; and our adversary which is represented in the hard economic crisis which is afflicting us because we have never evaded our pan-Arab and historic responsibility to confront with life and money all the fateful Arab issues.

We have made long strides in short years if we measure these strides by the age of nations in their protracted struggle for freedom and construction. However, more strides remain to be taken. This is the responsibility of this and the coming generations. We still have before us (?great) battles whose burdens should be shouldered by all sides, parties and groups. No. These are the burdens of the sons of one family.

Egypt, brothers and sisters, calls on us to extend our hand, not to stab an honorable deed with the daggers of ambitions and greed, but to build together the most honorable dreams and aspirations with our most virtuous drops of sweat.

Egypt is calling on all of us on the occasion of the new anniversary to be conscientious and not orators, to have pure intentions before slogans and to have sound intentions before eloquence.

Egypt calls all of us; it needs our sweat and work.

Brothers and sisters, ignite this sacred spark, and make it always shine with honesty and faith. Keep it away from the thieves of sweat, the traders of tears, and the agents of oppression and darkness. Offer it as the spark of faith with love as a sacrifice to Egypt--the Egypt of 23 July, the Egypt of 15 May, the Egypt of 14 May, the Egypt of 6 October, and the Egypt of the peace initiative. Peace be on you.

REFERENDUM OVER 'SUPREME INTERESTS' CALLED

NC1422402 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Text] We have received the following statement from the office of the president of the republic on the principles submitted to a referendum:

The 15 May Revolution has derived its strength from its full belief in the right of all the citizens to a good and honorable life, total and absolute justice and a complete and comprehensive freedom under the aegis of a permanent constitution which safeguards and protects freedoms and rights. However, and with the same capability, this constitution also safeguards and protects national unity and social peace.

The 15 May Revolution has rapidly covered extensive ground in this domain. It has restored to all citizens their full freedom and rights.

Furthermore, it has provided the citizens with the opportunity to form political parties and to contribute to the strengthening of the bulwarks of democracy and to achieve political, social and economic progress for the homeland under the aegis of the socialist and democratic system based on national unity and social peace.

However, things have recently revealed that some persons who entertain personal ambitions and party interests which have corrupted political life in the past, whether prior to the 23 July Revolution or afterward, who belong to organizations working against national unity and social peace, or who deliberately misuse the liberties guaranteed by the 15 May Revolution, are preparing to pounce on democracy which the people have gained following a long privation.

Things have not remained within the limits of seriousness, but they have gone beyond these limits to a point which jeopardizes our sacrosanctity and offends our religious sentiments and feelings. Some persons are even trying to harm these feelings or cast doubts on them. This matter is connected with the country's supreme interests. In accordance with Article 152 of the constitution, it is imperative for the president of the republic to call the people to a referendum over these supreme interests, particularly since the country is passing through a decisive phase in which the country is facing the two battles of liberation and construction--a phase which creates a greater need for national unity, social peace and a solid homefront. For all these reasons, and in accordance with the powers vested in us by Article 152 of the constitution, I have deemed it appropriate to call the people to a referendum over the following:

1. It is impermissible to assume senior posts in the state or the public sector, seek nomination as a broad of directors, candidate of trade unions or professional unions, write in the newspapers, work in any of the information media or in any post tending to influence public opinion, for anyone who is proved to be advocating or participating in advocating principles conflicting with or defaming religious law.

2. It is impermissible to belong to political parties or to participate in any party activity:

A. For anyone who had participated in the corruption of political life prior to the 23 July 1952 Revolution, whether this had been done by assuming cabinet portfolios while being a member of political parties which had been in power up to 23 July or by participating in leading and administering the parties and all such things, with the exception of the National Party and the Socialist Party--"the Young Egypt Party."

B. For anyone who had been convicted by the Revolutionary Court from among those who had formed centers of power following the 23 July Revolution and who had been referred to the Revolutionary Court in Criminal Case No 1 for 1971 by the public prosecutor's office. The same also applies to all those who have been convicted of a crime of illegally harming the personal liberties of the citizens or of physically or morally harming them.

C. For everyone against whom the charge has been proved of having committed actions tending to corrupt political life in the country or subjecting the national unity or social peace to danger, whether personally or as an intermediary of others and whether individually or through a party organization or an organization opposing the social system.

Considered as corrupting political life and subjecting national unity and social peace to danger is the publication, writing or broadcasting of false or tendentious articles or rumors which tend to jeopardize the state's national interests, proliferate the spirit of defeatism or instigate whatever harms social peace and national unity.

3. The press is the people's fourth authority. It is the people's property in accordance with the provisions of Law No 156 of 1960. It is imperative for the press to abide by the state's democratic socialist system, the social peace and national unity and the socialist gains achieved by the workers and the peasants as well as by the journalists' honor code.

4. The People's Assembly will pass legislation to carry out this referendum. Furthermore, it will pass legislation on the appropriate penalties for anyone who violates these principles.

5. The socialist public prosecutor will assume the authority of carrying out investigations and filing law suits on any violation of the laws to be issued by the People's Assembly on this matter.

The socialist public prosecutor shall be entitled to seek the assistance of those members of the judicial bodies whose assistance he deems necessary. To carry out the above tasks, he will enjoy all the preogatives of investigative powers stipulated by the Criminal Procedures Law. If he finds out that serious evidence has been established, it is imperative for the socialist public prosecutor to submit a causative report about this evidence to the People's Assembly.

6. The People's Assembly will consider the case of anyone against whom a report is submitted by the socialist public prosecutor in accordance with the provisions of the above principles. The assembly will adopt its decision by a majority vote, either supporting, amending or rejecting the decision of the socialist public prosecutor.

7. These principles will be submitted to a popular referendum within a week of the date of publication of this statement.

Signed: The president of the republic

AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NC1508300Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 15 May--President Anwar as-Sadat has emphasized that it will be a "great disaster" if the U.S. Congress fails to pass the U.S. aircraft deal with Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

President as-Sadat said that what Saudi Arabia and Egypt are asking for is legitimate defense for their peoples and nation. President as-Sadat explained that Vice President Husni Mubarak's trip to Saudi Arabia is primarily for the sake of the U.S. arms deal.

In an interview he has granted to Kirkpatrick, chief editor of the Chicago TRIBUNE, President as-Sadat said: We are preparing ourselves to confront the situation when you refuse to supply us with weapons. President as-Sadat also expressed opposition to supply Israel with any additional weapons. He said that any arms the United States supplies to Israel will always put Israel in a position to defy the United States and make it attempt to impose its conditions.

In his interview President as-Sadat dealt in detail with the U.S. arms deal to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He said: Unfortunately, the United States is imposing an embargo exactly like the embargo the Soviets have been imposing in the 5 years since the end of the October war. I am not asking for offensive weapons. The F-5E aircraft I am asking for is a tenth-rate aircraft compared to the Phantoms, F-15 and F-16 aircraft Israel is getting. The F-5 aircraft is tenth rate after these aircraft. Well, this is all that I am asking for. If the United States wants to treat me as the Soviets are treating me, then this will be a great disappointment in the field of defense, because what I am asking for is for the purpose of legitimate defense. I am not asking for these weapons to launch an attack on Israel; I am asking for them only for legitimate defense, which is my responsibility.

Asked what effect the failure by the U.S. Congress to pass the deal will have on peace in the Middle East and the entire peace process, President as-Sadat said: Let me tell you very frankly that it will be a great disaster. What Saudi Arabia and Egypt are asking for is for the legitimate defense of our peoples and our nation. We are not seeking to launch an aggression against anyone. You have just spoken about the battle in Africa. I say the battle of Africa because it began in West Africa--in Angola and Zaire, and it is now in east Africa--in the Horn of Africa--and it will be in Sudan and on my border tomorrow. Therefore, there is a feeling of uncertainty in the Arab world toward the United States. Why? Because after Israel had launched its attack on southern Lebanon and after President Carter had exerted every effort to make Israel withdraw, Israel is still procrastinating. Believe me, there is serious doubt among the states of the Arab world.

Asked whether he will decide to continue the peace campaign if the aircraft deal does not get congress' approval, President as-Sadat said: Not at all. It will not in any way affect my efforts to achieve or establish peace. However, let me make some remarks in this respect: We have rationally manifested our position before hundreds of millions of people all over the world. We said let the October war be the last war. However like Saudi Arabia and Israel, Egypt must fulfill its legitimate defense needs. This F-5 aircraft deal will serve as a clear indication on the part of the U.S. Government and congress that they understand these security needs. We have followed and are still following with extreme interest the debate which has taken place in congress.

Let me tell you this: I hope that congress, like the U.S. Government, will recognize the legitimate needs of Egypt. I think that Egypt and Saudi Arabia have shown understanding for the United States. We are working together to find a peaceful solution through which we can establish permanent peace in the area.

President as-Sadat continued: If this deal is rejected by the Senate and House, this will be tantamount to a disaster. Nevertheless, as I told you, this will not stop me from doing my best to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Asked what he meant by the word "disaster," President as-Sadat said: Let me tell you frankly, as I told you [words indistinct] all over the Arab world in the wake of the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon [words indistinct] why this state of doubt exist? This is because Israel always does what it wants, despite the fact that President Carter had submitted an urgent proposal to the Security Council. The Security Council adopted a resolution in this respect within 24 hours calling for Israel's withdrawal.

Israel is procrastinating, and I mean it is achieving [words indistinct]. This means that the United States must [words indistinct] because what Israel is doing [words indistinct] the United States has lost its influence. This is the reason for the suspicion.

When (?I said) that with regard to Saudi Arabia and Egypt it will be tantamount to a big disaster, this is because we will not be in a position to try to convince the Arab man on the street that the United States and President Carter can stop Israel, and you know that the United States is Israel's lifeline.

President as-Sadat continued: Let me complete to you [words indistinct]. I think that I was clear when I spoke to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee. I said very clearly and frankly that we were not requesting weapons, as I told you, in order to attack Israel, but for our own legitimate defense needs, particularly in view of our presence here in Africa, as I told you before.

However, I announced before the House and the Senate that when there is a peace agreement, I will be ready to agree to limitations on armaments and end the arms race in the area.

Asked whether he is concerned about President Carter's proposal to give Israel an additional 20 planes and to get guarantees from Saudi Arabia on the site where the planes will be stationed, President as-Sadat said: Yes, I am concerned. When this peace process began--you will perhaps remember that we began the peace process immediately after the October war--it was begun by Egypt and the United States. In other words, it was myself and Kissinger who began the peace process which brought about the first and second disengagement agreements and then the third move toward the convening of the Geneva conference. President Carter began making the preparations for this conference. Henry Kissinger had a theory which he reiterated, namely that the more weapons he offered Israel, the more secure it would feel with a huge weapons arsenal, and thus it would be more flexible and ready to achieve peace. I opposed this view. I told him that this would instead make Israel defy you at some point in the future; therefore, I am against supplying Israel with any more weapons.

President as-Sadat continued: Israel can now absorb any quantity of weapons. The types of weapons and the stage of development that exist in Israel are fantastic. You are supplying Israel with so many of the most sophisticated weapons that it will need mercenaries from abroad to come to man the weapons because it does not have sufficient people to use these weapons.

Therefore, any additional quantity of arms--believe me when I say this because you will see after some time that I am right--will put them in a position to defy you. They will try to impose their conditions. Therefore, I am against any additional supply of arms to Israel.

President as-Sadat then said that Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia is for the sake of the U.S. arms deal. He said: We must coordinate.

President as-Sadat went on to say: The vice president's trip to Saudi Arabia is primarily concerned with the arms deal. We are preparing ourselves to confront the situation when you refuse to supply us with arms. Your Congress refuses to grant us our completely legitimate rights to defend our country or to supply us with weapons for our defense. This also applies to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Asked whether the failure of the arms deal to materialize will mean he will be compelled to purchase weapons from France and other suppliers, the president said: As I have told you, I am seeking after my legitimate right to defend my country, and I will most certainly try to purchase from Western Europe, from Britain and from any other state that can help us.

The chief editor of the Chicago TRIBUNE then asked the president: Mr President, with regard to this armament situation, you are to some extent threatened by Israel and threatened by the Soviets. There is a possibility that you will not obtain the weapons you need to defend yourselves. Are you pessimistic about the possibilities of peace? The president replied: Never. As I have told you, I am always optimistic. I have learned this here, from the soil on which I grew up.

ECONOMY MINISTER MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC131846Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 May--Minister of Economy and Economic Cooperation Dr Hamid as-Sayih met with U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts today. They discussed the strengthening of economic and technical cooperation as well as the promotion of trade and investments between the two countries.

After the meeting, which was attended by the U.S. AID program director in Cairo, Donald Brown, Dr as-Sayih expressed his satisfaction with the U.S. efforts to promote investments in Egypt and to bolster the Egyptian economy, particularly in connection with the objectives of the international consultative group, which is scheduled to hold its second session in Paris on 14 July.

As-Sayih said that the volume of economic and technical aid which the United States will be giving to Egypt in 1978 will amount to about $1 billion. This money, he added, will be used to pay for Egypt's imports of capital and consumer goods, particularly foodstuffs, in order to meet the people's needs.

AS-SADAT TO VISIT CANAL AREA IN JUNE

NC130849Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 May--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR AL-YAWM's weekly edition says today that President Anwar as-Sadat will visit the canal area beginning 1 June.

The paper adds that the president will spend about 2 weeks in the town of Ismailia, during which he will hold several important political meetings and give the green light for starting the implementation of the last stage of the first tunnel project under the canal. He will also attend celebrations marking the third anniversary of the reopening of the Suez Canal.

The paper adds that President as-Sadat will also visit Suez and Port Said and meet with the political and popular leaders there.

The paper says that As-Sadat will also pay a 1-day visit to Ash-Sharqiyah Governorate.

FARANSA AL-BILAD AL-'ARABIYAH INTERVIEWS KING HUSAYN

JN130750Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 13 May 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Text] In an interview with the French magazine FARANSA AL-BILAD AL-'ARABIYAH, published in Paris, His Majesty King Husayn has said that the solution to the Middle East problem does not lie in our hands but has always been in Israel's hands. His majesty added: Israel has expanded since the partition in 1947. It expanded in 1948, 1956 and 1967 when it occupied all of Palestine as well as territories of other Arab countries. It has expanded again in southern Lebanon, which has been its objective for a long time.

His Majesty King Husayn added: The only basis for establishing peace is Israel's willingness to withdraw from all the territories occupied in June 1967, restore Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem and recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and the regaining of their rights in their usurped homeland. His majesty believes that all these principles were included in UN Security Council Resolution No 242, but none of them was implemented.

The 1973 war broke out and a new UN Security Council resolution appeared, namely Resolution No 338. His majesty said: Now there is talk about a declaration of principles, while 11 years have passed since the occupation and many changes have taken place in the occupied land. He pointed out that Israel's choice has always been land or peace. I believe it has chosen land instead of peace, he added. We have been told that a strong Israel can be moderate. Israel is stronger today than at any time in the past. It has become more aggressive and more determined to retain its control over the occupied territories. It refuses to give the Palestinians and the other Arabs who surround it the feeling of security which they lack.

His Majesty King Husayn said: In 1973 we failed to achieve even a disengagement of forces between Jordan and Israel. The actions of the Israelis in the occupied land indicate that we are not approaching the realization of a cherished objective, the establishment of peace.

His majesty concluded his statement by describing Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon as an extremely grave development.

MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT VISITS JORDAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS

JN111515Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 11 May--His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Jordanian armed forces, and Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah today visited the General Headquarters of the armed forces. His majesty and his distinguished guest were briefed on the organization and armament of the armed forces.

Ends Visit, Leaves Amman

JN130944Y Amman JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Excerpt] Amman, 13 May--Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah left Amman this morning following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the Arab situation, issues of common interest in the Arab nation, bilateral relations and cooperation between the two fraternal countries. His Majesty King Husayn was at the head of those who saw off the Mauritanian president.

SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION ARRIVES IN AMMAN 15 MAY

JN141920Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 14 May--A delegation of the Soviet Trade Unions Federation arrives in Amman tomorrow on a 1-week official visit to Jordan, during which it will hold talks with Jordanian officials.

The delegation will meet with trade union officials in Jordan and will visit a number of factories, economic projects and historical places. The delegation will see the scientific and cultural developments achieved in Jordan.

The delegation was invited by the Jordanian Trade Unions Federation.

PAPERS NOTE FAILED PEACE EFFORTS, NEED FOR SUMMIT

JN130811Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 May 78 pp 1, 11 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The One-Sided Game", the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: Menahem Begin's cabinet will meet tomorrow to again define Israel's stand toward withdrawal, settlements and peace.

President As-Sadat proposed that the West Bank be returned to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt as a condition for resuming the direct bilateral talks. Despite the fact that Israel did not officially reply to this proposal, the paper says it does not believe that Menahem Begin will bother to reply to such a proposal. The paper says: It is high time that the Arabs realized that Israel will not withdraw from the occupied Arab territory. It is also high time that the Arabs realize that all international efforts made during the past 11 years aimed at establishing a just and permanent peace in the area have failed.

The paper continues, saying: Thus we must not be deceived by the game Tel Aviv is playing with Washington, because such a game will not result in the return of the occupied Arab territory nor recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The continued absence of a unified Arab confrontation based on capable intrinsic force will allow Israel to continue to maneuver to the maximum extent. Also, the lack of effective Arab pressure on the United States will keep Washington a weak partner in the negotiations of the one-sided game.

On the efforts being made to restore Arab solidarity and the inevitability of this solidarity at this stage the Arab nation is passing through, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes: Needless to say, the restoration of Arab solidarity is an inevitable and indispensable necessity. All Arab leaders realize this. Vital Arab interests make it incumbent on all leaders to respond as quickly as possible to the call for solidarity without imposing any preconditions.

The paper says: Whatever the differences in views, the Arab summit conference remains the natural forum to discuss these differences and the framework within which all differences must be settled and the body to draw up and endorse the necessary Arab strategy to face present and future challenges. Otherwise, failure to meet at the summit level, whatever the justifications, remains unjustifiable at the pan-Arab level.

GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION; SARKIS ACCEPTS DECISION

NC151218Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis has accepted the government's decision to withdraw its resignation. This decision was reached at the cabinet meeting held from 1300 to 1430 today.

His excellency opened the session with a speech in which he reviewed the current situation. We will give you more details in upcoming newscasts.

BUTRUS MAKES STATEMENT AFTER MEETING SARKIS

NC131217Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] As part of his contacts to deal with the cabinet crisis, His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis met with Prime Minister-Designate Dr Salim al-Huss at 1000 today. Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus joined the meeting later.

On leaving the Presidential Palace at 1130, Minister Butrus said: I have nothing important to declare. A meeting of the president of the republic, the prime minister and a minister is not unusual. We met and discussed some outstanding issues, including the question of the south. At the end of the meeting we discussed a number of domestic issues and reviewed the situation. The prime minister-designate has his own point of view and he may explain it if asked to do so.

Asked about the situation in the south after certain states, such as Sweden and Norway, had expressed a desire to withdraw their troops who are with the UN emergency forces, Minister Butrus said: This is incorrect. I am surprised at your asking such a question, despite the fact that a clear statement was issued yesterday by the Swedish Embassy in Lebanon, saying: "Sweden has not sent troops to Lebanon to serve permanently with the UN emergency forces. It has transferred some of its soldiers in Sinai to serve temporarily in southern Lebanon until the UN emergency force reaches its normal strength--4,000 men--in Lebanon. This loan was temporary." When the UN force reached 4,000 men, the Swedish forces, who were on temporary loan, were withdrawn. This was put very clearly in the statement of the Swedish Embassy in Lebanon. I think this question must not be the subject of any further discussion.

When told that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan declared during his recent visit to Norway that Norway would withdraw its forces from Lebanon, Foreign Minister Butrus said: I believe that when a state wants to adopt a stand on its forces in Lebanon or elsewhere, it will express its opinions itself.

Asked if there was anything to say concerning the supply of arms to the army, Butrus replied: Matters in this regard are progressing normally.

Asked his opinion of the meeting between former president Franjiyah and former prime minister Karami, Butrus said: The only information I have about this is what I have read in the press. I hope that all Lebanese leaders will meet, be reconciled and reach an understanding on bases which could be useful to the country.

Asked about the military coordination between the Lebanese Army command and the deterrent forces command, Minister Butrus said: This issue has a military character that overshadows everything. Naturally, this comes under the jurisdiction of the army command.

Minister Butrus was then told: This question was asked you in your capacity as minister of defense. He answered: I am the defense minister, but I am not an officer who understands military issues on maps and in the field.

FRANJIYAH, KARAMI MEET IN TRIPOLI

NC121553Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 12 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 12 May--A meeting was held in Tripoli today between former Lebanese president Sulayman Franjiyah and former prime minister Rashid Karami. Observers expect the meeting to arouse a strong reaction from political circles, particularly from the Lebanese Front. Former president Franjiyah has refrained from attending the meetings of the Lebanese Front for some time now.

Today's meeting ended a bitter enmity between Franjiyah and Karami. This enmity, which has lasted more than 2 years, dates back to the days of the civil war in Lebanon. Following the war, the two men attacked each other on the pages of the press and each criticized the role of the other during that war.

Today's meeting came in the wake of a last-minute attempt by the leader of the Lebanese Front, Camille Sham'un, to persuade former president Franjiyah to rejoin the ranks of the front. Following his meeting with Sham'un yesterday, Franjiyah clearly declared that he refuses to return to the ranks of the Lebanese Front. He said he insists on adopting stands consistent with his political convictions instead of going along with the political stands of the front, whi h he does not condone.

AFP: FORMER PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH SUFFERS HEART ATTACK

TA141835Y Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 14 May 78 TA

[Text] Beirut, May 13 (AFP)--Former Lebanese president and leading Christian conservative Sulayman Franjiyah, 68, had a heart attack in his home town of Zgharta in the north of the country today. Reliable sources said his condition was satisfactory.

Interior minister in the outgoing government Salah Salman flew to Zgharta, accompanied by a team of heart specialists from the American University in Lebanon.

Condition Reported Good

NC132016Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 May 78 NC

[Text] The administration of the Hotel Dieu Hospital has issued the following medical bulletin: former president Sulayman Franjiyah is indisposed. The doctors treating him have advised him to enter the hospital for medical observation. Franjiyah has been admitted to the Hotel Dieu Hospital. His condition is good.

PHALANGISTS, SYRIANS FORM COORDINATION COMMITTEE

JN121333Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 May 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 May--Phalangist Party sources have declared that the Phalangist committee for coordination with the Syrian regime was officially formed today. It was agreed to establish the committee during the visit Phalangist Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil paid to Damascus 2 weeks ago.

The sources said that the committee consists of three members from the Phalangist side, who are members of the party Politburo. They are Edmond Rizq, George Sa'adah and Amin al-Jumayyil. Three members will also represent the Syrian regime. They are Lt Col Muhammad Ghanim, Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli, and Lt Col Ibrahim Khadiji.

GENERAL ERSKINE COMMENTS ON UNIFIL PROBLEMS

NC141118Y Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, May 14 (AFP)--General Emmanuel Erskine, commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said in a magazine interview today that his UNIFIL command faced a serious contradiction. General Erskine told the weekly MONDAY MORNING that UN Security Council Resolution 425 regarding security in southern Lebanon was "irreconcilable" with the Lebanese-Palestinian Cairo agreement of November 1969 granting fedayeen bases there.

He said: "The Cairo agreement and our mission are in conflict. One of our main tasks is to prevent the area from being used for hostile activities, and to be able to do that we have to prevent armed personnel from getting into the area," General Erskine said in the interview in the weekly MONDAY MORNING.

General Erskine said that Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat "had to wait for the UN to complete its mission," and could then "sort things out with the Lebanese authorities".

General Erskine warned the Palestinians against attempts to infiltrate the area. "It may be necessary for the PLO to stop infiltration. If they don't, that will put us in confrontation--and we have made it clear that we are not at war with anybody. We don't want to fight anybody," he said.

The UN commander also made it clear that his troops were not in Lebanon to drive out the Israelis by force, but "to confirm the withdrawal of the Israeli troops."

"We have to assist the Lebanese Government to establish its own authority in the area, and as soon as that is done, I suppose that will be the time for the UN to pull out," he said.

FRENCH FORCES RESUME PATROL OPERATIONS IN TYRE

NC151130Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 May 78 NC

[Excerpt] Beirut, 15 May--The French forces in southern Lebanon today resumed patrol operations in Tyre. These operations had been suspended on 2 May, the day on which two French soldiers were killed and 12 others, including Colonel Galvan, former commander of the French contingent, were wounded.

The French forces instituted motor and foot patrols in the city after last night's meeting between the French contingent commander, Lt Col Dominque Viard, and representatives of the joint forces. Discussions during the meeting dealt with the return of Israeli forces to certain villages in the south after they had withdrawn from them in the third phase of their withdrawal, which took place at the end of April. It has been agreed that the weapons which French patrols had confiscated will be returned to the joint forces.

Meanwhile, the Israeli forces have withdrawn from the town of (Ziggin), 15 km from Tyre, and have taken up position on the hills around the village and established new positions overlooking a large section of the area.

RADIO SCORES U.S. PLANES DEAL TO EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA

JN1318l4Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 May 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In his call on the U.S. Congress to approve the aircraft deal to Israel, Saudi Arabia and the As-Sadat regime, U.S. President Jimmy Carter admitted that President as-Sadat had placed himself in a serious political position when he embarked on his capitulationist step--the so-called peace initiative. The U.S. President said that if the deal falls through, President as-Sadat will be placed in a critical position. The U.S. President's admission proves an already well-known fact, namely, that As-Sadat's policy has failed and collapsed, as well as isolated its creator in the Arab area, placing him in an embarrassing and critical position. There is no doubt that the U.S. President is trying to do all he can to help the As-Sadat regime survive and remain in power. At the same time the U.S. President is continuing the U.S. policy which sides with Israel's expansionist ambitions and which is hostile to the aspirations and interests of the Arab masses.

Can 50 old planes [words indistinct] from the U.S. Air Force, to be delivered after 1983--if the deal is approved--save As-Sadat's regime? Can these planes make the Arab masses change the verdict they passed on the regime which has stabbed their dignity in the back, relinquished their rights, divided the ranks of their states and left their camp to join the hostile line? The aircraft deal itself favors and is in the interests of Israel--as Carter, Vance and many U.S. politicians have said. Even if the planes are given to the As-Sadat regime, they will not be used to fight against Israel or create a military balance with it. They will be used--as Vance said--against the Arab countries which disagree with the As-Sadat regime and for certain tasks in Africa. At a time when the U.S. administration is making a big issue of the planes promised to Saudi Arabia and the As-Sadat regime, the shipment of U.S. weapons continues to Israel with more pledges to offer additional modern weapons. Moreover, at the time Carter was calling on the Congress to help As-Sadat's regime survive, the new U.S. F-15 and F-16 planes were participating in the military parade Israel held on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the racist Zionist entity in Palestine. How can any planes be of use to the Arabs as long as As-Sadat has relinquished Egypt's legitimate right to use all means--including force--to liberate the occupied territories of Egypt? What is the use of planes when As-Sadat has ruled the heroic Egyptian army out of the battle with Israel and pledged to guarantee Israel's security? The As-Sadat regime has deprived the Egyptian army of its sources of arms supplies and changed the process of receiving equipment into acts of begging and extortion which benefit Israel in the form of more modern U.S. weapons.

What has been taking place in Washington during the past few days refutes the policy of capitulation and begging, and affirms the correctness of Syria's and the Arab masses' stand. It also shows how much the policy of defeatism, capitulation and begging has harmed Arab interests; it also demonstrates the inability of the As-Sadat regime to offer any evidence of the possibility--however slight--of achieving any of the promises he made to justify his capitulationist step. The U.S. Government has again affirmed its complete bias toward Israel, and President Carter has announced, without opposition, the eternal U.S. commitment to the security of Israel. He thus stressed and strengthened the U.S. commitment which has always been explained as one of guaranteeing Israel's military superiority over all the Arab countries.

The Arabs have experienced the results of this commitment in the form of aggressive Israeli wars against them, Israeli occupation of their territories, the racist and barbaric displacement of the people of Palestine and the deprivation of their simplest human and national rights.

As-Sadat's capitulationist step has not only failed--as expected--to neutralize the United States in the Arab-Israeli struggle but has also increased U.S. bias, as demonstrated by the arms deals as well as the financial and political support to Israel. It has also increased the stubbornness and intransigence of the Israeli Government and escalated its territorial and expansionist demands. Any adherence by the As-Sadat regime to the capitulationist policy, which stabbed the Arab cause in the back, froze international peace efforts, strengthened the enemy front and changed the balance of power against the welfare of the Arabs, is renewed proof of this regime's bias toward the Zionist and imperialist enemy, as well as of a lack of national dignity and a feeling of pan-Arab responsibility.

Syria, which firmly rejected and condemned the policy of capitulation, defeatism and begging, will continue--together with the Arab masses and all the Arab forces which abide by the Rabat and Algiers conference resolutions and which maintain Arab dignity--the struggle against the policy of capitulation. Syria will do this based on its conviction that it is part of the Arab political life. It will foil any attempt to infiltrate Arab conferences and meetings if this capitulationist policy is not relinquished and declared a failure.

BA'THIST OFFICIAL OUTLINES SYRIA'S POLICY, OBJECTIVES

JN1018102Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 May 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received in the Regional Command offices this morning the heads and members of the Arab and foreign trade unions participating in the third general congress of the Syrian Teachers Federation. At the outset of the meeting, Comrade Bajbuj welcomed the brothers and the guests and explained to them the situation in the Arab area. He also presented a political analysis of current events and the critical circumstances through which our Arab nation is passing, particularly following As-Sadat's capitulationist visit to Jerusalem and its adverse impact on the Arab cause.

Comrade Bajbuj emphasized Syria's firm and principled stand toward the front of steadfastness and confrontation and the resolutions of the summit conferences in Tripoli and Algiers, which call for complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people and foiling the capitulationist schemes and solutions of As-Sadat's hireling regime and its allies. Comrade Bajbuj asserted that Syria will never kneel before the plots of the forces of evil and aggression. He added: Our stand will continue to be impassive and will depend on our intrinsic power and on our friends.

The heads of the delegations expressed their thanks to the comrade assistant regional secretary for his information. They praised highly Syria's steadfastness under President Hafiz al-Asad in thwarting capitulationist schemes and solutions. They also lauded the progressive accomplishments in Syria. They asserted their countries' support for Syria's struggle and steadfastness in the face of imperialist and Zionist challenges and for the full liberation of the occupied territories and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

LIBYA

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA ARRIVES

LD121735Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 12 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 12 May, JANA--Hedi Nouira, prime minister and secretary general of the party in sister Tunisia, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit of several days to the Jamahiriyah. An official welcome was given to Prime Minister Nouira at Tripoli International Airport, where Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee, led the welcomers.

Prime Minister Nouira, in a statement at the airport, expressed pleasure at visiting the Jamahiriyah, stressing that it is the land of victory and liberation of the Arab Libyan man and that the visit will complete the joint talks on consolidation of cooperation between the two countries.

He said: We are seriously striving for consolidation of fraternal relations between the Tunisian and Libyan peoples in order to support the establishment of joint organizations in the service of the two fraternal peoples. In conclusion, Prime Minister Nouira said the visit will contribute to the consolidation of cooperation between the two fraternal peoples of Libya and Tunisia.

Joint Committee Meeting Opens

LD132346Y Tripoli JANA in English 1527 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 13, JANA--Meetings of the Libyan-Tunisian Higher Committee opened this morning at the auditorium of the Foreign Secretariat. The higher committee's fourth session will discuss means of consolidating bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The Libyan side was headed by the chairman of the General People's Committee, Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, while the Tunisian side was headed by Prime Minister Hedi Nouira.

Al-'Ubaydi Speech

LD132350Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] The meetings of the supreme Libyan-Tunisian Higher Committee opened in Tripoli today. Brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi made a speech on the occasion in which he said: I am pleased to welcome all of you to the Jamahiriyah on the occasion of our fourth meeting to continue discussion of the questions which concern Libyan Arab-Tunisian cooperation. We previously discussed these questions at the third session in Tunis.

He added: Today's meeting is a manifestation of an agreement between Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and President Habib Bourguiba. This agreement binds the interests of the people in the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia in order that they might achieve their hopes for integration and comprehensive unity--a unity which gives dignity and power to the Arab nation.

Brother al-'Ubaydi said: We must not view the agreements and projects for joint cooperation in a traditional way, but rather as something that concerns one people in both fraternal regions who have common aims and aspirations leading inevitably to the linking and strengthening of their interests for the sake of serving the present and future generations.

Brother al-'Ubaydi affirmed that Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Habib Bourguiba stressed the need to strengthen cooperation between the two regions. Accordingly, we should look at the cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia from a basic point which links and confirms the unity of the people in the two regions. We must stress that these two leaders previously signed a historic agreement, namely, the Djerba Declaration.

Brother al-'Ubaydi said that basic popular congresses in the Jamahiriyah affirmed in their successive sessions the need to work to bring the day of unity between the two peoples in the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia nearer. He said: There is no doubt that the Tunisian leadership is eager to realize this desired day in which the unity of the people is realized in fulfillment of this charter. He added: We reaffirm that any step we take together with Tunisia on the road of cooperation will be a pioneering step which realizes integration, fulfills the hopes, serves the joint interests and serves the economy of the two fraternal regions, bringing the day of unity nearer.

Nouira Speech

LD1401107 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Higher Tunisian-Libyan Commission opened its fourth session today at noon at the headquarters of the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hedi Nouira and 'Adb al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who exchanged speeches at the opening meeting.

In his speech Hedi Nouira said: First, permit me to express to you my deep gratitude for your generous invitation, which has afforded us the opportunity of this new meeting, and for your kind words about me and my country. My delegation and I have been moved by the hospitality accorded us in Libya. This hospitality by Libya for Tunisia is not surprising. We always feel we are in our country and among our people whenever we visit this hospitable land. What gives further satisfaction is that our two countries, conscious of the close ties which bind them and of their aspiration to a dignified life and better future, have resolved to coordinate their steps, to bring their efforts closer and to harmonize their hopes and aims.

For several years we have been pursuing a method of work whose efficiency and usefulness, has, we believe, been proved by time. We have chosen the method of direct and regular dialog and planned action. It has become clear to us every time, even when some doubts and difficulties emerge on the horizon, that the Tunisians and Libyans are capable of overcoming difficulties on their own and of realizing that what they have in common is stronger and more lasting than what may separate them.

Mr Chairman, on the occasion of this fourth session of the higher commission, I would like to express our satisfaction at the sound plan we are pursuing and at the achievements we have so far made with regard to programs and plans. I would also like on this occasion to thank all experts and technicians who have contributed to the formulation of those studies and plans. But we must not overlook the fact that time is moving fast and inexorably. What we cannot achieve today will become more difficult to achieve tomorrow. Therefore, this session is called upon to begin implementing those plans, plans we have agreed upon relating to various sectors. This would bring us to the desired stage of integration.

Nouira added: If we succeed in forming a firm nucleus of cooperation between our two countries, we would thus strengthen understanding and fraternity between our two peoples and open wide vistas for our common future.

This fulfills the thoughts of the two leaders Habib Bourguiba and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who, at the end of 1972, laid the basis for our present work.

Nouira concluded by saying that the Tunisian delegation has come to Tripoli with an open heart and is very anxious to bring about achievements and to forge ahead along the road of fruitful cooperation between our two countries. May the Tripoli session be a new start in this blessed march. This would not be hard to accomplish if the people concerned make up their minds to do so sincerely.

Following the speeches, the inaugural meeting was adjourned. The commission reconvened at the level of technicians under the chairmanship of Mustafa Zaanouni, minister delegate attached to the prime minister's office in charge of planning, and Musa Ahmad Abu Furaywah, secretary of planning in the Jamahiriyah. Its meeting was preceded by another meeting which lasted about an hour, attended by Nouira and Al-'Ubaydi, accompanied by Mohamed Fitouri, foreign minister; Mustafa Zaanouni, minister delegate to prime minister's office; 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, foreign secretary of the Jamahiriyah; Al-Madani, Libyan secretary of communications; and Musa Ahmad Abu Furaywah, secretary for planning. Others attending were 'Adb al-Hamid 'Ammar, Tunisian delegate general in Tripoli, and 'Abd al-Hamid az-Zintani, Jamahiriyah delegate general in Tunis.

Nouira, Jallud Meet

LD140012Y Tripoli JANA in English 1815 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, May 13, JANA--Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, received this afternoon at his office at the People's Palace Mr Hedi Nouira, the Tunisian prime minister, who is currently on a visit to the Jamahiriyah at the invitation of Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, head of the General People's Committee.

On the Tunisian side, the foreign minister, minister of planning and the Tunisian general delegate to the Jamahiriyah attended the meeting.

On the Libyan side, Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, head of the General People's Committee, the secretaries for foreign affairs and transport and the Jamahiriyah's general delegate to Tunisia were present.

MOROCCO

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD131454Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Summary] Marcelino Oreja, Spanish minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Rabat Friday afternoon on an official 2-day visit to Morocco. In a statement to the press made on his arrival, Marcelino Oreja said that his visit to Morocco comes within the framework of the consolidation of the very cordial relations between Spain and Morocco.

He also said that his visit would be short, as he had to leave on Sunday, and he emphasized the good, friendly relations which exist between the two countries.

Shortly after his arrival, Mr Oreja had talks with Mr Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation. After the talks, Mr Boucetta made a statement in which he said:

"Our talks concerned economic, cultural and diplomatic relations, and we noted that relations between Morocco and Spain are excellent, since there are good relations between the sovereigns of the two countries, between the governments and between the peoples of Morocco and Spain."

"Mr Marcelino Oreja, in a statement to MAP, said that the Canary Islands constitute an integral part of the Spanish territory. We are very satisfied with the Moroccan support to Spain on this issue and we highly appreciate the Moroccan stance at the OAU ministers meeting in Tripoli, he added."

Received by King Hassan

LD131419Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Summary] His Majesty King Hassan II received the foreign minister of Spain this morning. Our correspondent in Fez has sent us the following dispatch:

His Majesty King Hassan received Mr Marcelino Oreja, Spanish foreign minister, this morning at the royal palace in Fez. Following the meeting the Spanish minister made a statement to the radio in which he expressed pleasure at meeting His Majesty King Hassan. He said this is his second meeting with the king, the first being a meeting in Madrid.

"On his talks today with his majesty, he pointed out that they concentrated on bilateral relations in the economic, social and political fields, and that they made possible an exchange of views on the current international situation.

"He added: It is a great honor to me to meet his majesty, who is known for his intelligence and his comprehensive understanding of international issues."

The meeting was attended by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Leaves Rabat

LD141446Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Summary] Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja left Rabat Sale Airport at the end of a 3-day official visit. At the airport he made a statement to the press in which he expressed satisfaction with the visit, especially since it allowed him to have the honor of meeting His Majesty King Hassan.

"Mr Oreja described Moroccan-Spanish relations as excellent and declared that most of the differences that disturbed these relations were resolved during this visit. A Moroccan delegation will visit Madrid to continue discussion of issues which are still outstanding."

The minister was seen off at the airport by his Moroccan counterpart.

KING HASSAN, NUMAYRI HOLD FURTHER TALKS

LD122212Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1325 GMT 12 May 78 LD

[Summary] We have just learned that His Majesty King Hassan has had more talks with the Sudanese president. Our correspondent in Fez reports that His Majesty King Hassan and his excellency the president of Sudan, J'afar Numayri, had a new round of talks today at the royal palace, a tete-a-tete, at the end of which his majesty saw his guest off and spoke of the appreciation his majesty and the Moroccan people have for the Sudanese president and his people, and their hope that his efforts to unite the Arab ranks are successful.

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN REJECTS AS-SADAT PROPOSALS

NC1406347 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Text] The prime minister has utterly rejected the new proposal attributed to President as-Sadat, which calls for restoring the 4 June 1967 status quo and for transferring the Gaza Strip to Egypt and Judaea and Samaria to Jordan as a temporary solution.

Mr Begin appealed to the Egyptian president to renew the good spirit of the Jerusalem and Ismailia talks and to negotiate together with Israel on the peace terms.

Menahem Begin said that the peace terms should be determined by discussions and should not be dictated. The demand for a withdrawal to the 1967 lines will not be accepted because it would affect the peace and security of our people. In our view, peace is neither a piece of paper nor a mere word, but a matter of life to us and to coming generations.

The prime minister made these remarks at a loan bonds conference in Jerusalem.

WEST BANK NOTABLES THINK LITTLE OF AS-SADAT OFFER

TA1417117 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 May 78 pp 1, 11 TA

[Excerpt] President as-Sadat's suggestion to return the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt as the first step toward solving the Palestinian problem has not aroused any interest in the administered territories. Public figures asked to voice their opinion last night said that the suggestion was not serious.

Other public figures, who are known for their support of the PLO and their opposition to the Jordanian rule, reject the president's suggestion just as they have rejected his political initiative. They think that President as-Sadat's "political loyalty" harms the Palestinian issue.

These figures think that it is preferable that President as-Sadat's political initiative wither and thus the public argument in the world would center around the issue of a Palestinian state on the West Bank.

IDF REPORTEDLY REOCCUPIES POSITIONS IN S. LEBANON

TA1521227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 13 May 78 TA

[Text] Press agency correspondents in southern Lebanon say that an IDF force has retaken three villages it had recently evacuated in the third phase of withdrawal. The villages are (Zabbaqin), Tibnin and 'Ayn (Mazreb). According to the correspondents, the IDF positioned tanks and troop carriers in those villages. UN spokesmen in Lebanon said they had no information about such Israeli activity.

IDF Denies Report

LD1322487 Jerusalem International Service in English 2230 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] Military sources in Israel have denied reports that Israel forces reoccupied positions in Lebanon from which they withdrew on 30 April. The United Nations forces in Beirut said they, too, knew nothing about the alleged Israeli troop movements. The reports came from foreign news agencies in Beirut, which alleged that Israel had reoccupied the villages of (Zabbaqin), Tibnin and 'Ayn (Mazreb).

EYTAN'S REMARKS ON TV RECEIVE OFFICIAL, PRESS SUPPORT

Cabinet Backing

TA1414267 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 May 78 TA

[Text] The cabinet today decided by a majority that the chief of staff did not overstep his authority in talking of the defensive value of Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights.

After the cabinet session, Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin told our correspondent Allan Ben-'Ami that he personally does not agree with the cabinet decision even though it is binding, just as any other cabinet decision. Professor Yadin pointed out that in his view the expression of opinions on political issues by the general staff is liable to adversely affect the army and democracy. It was Yadin who raised the issue at the cabinet meeting.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT Editorial

TA1410057 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 May 78 p 2 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The commotion caused by the chief of staff's television interview is completely unnecessary, because what the chief of staff said during the interview was not that he would oppose the government's policy but only that, with all his obedience to it, he differs from its members on some important issues. Moreover, he expressed his opinion only because the representative of our national television asked for it. He was asked, and he replied to the question. What is sinful in that?

However, even if he had made the declaration on his own initiative, it would not have been an outstanding move. Half of our chiefs of staff, among them M. Gur, Y. Rabin and Z. Zur have, while in office, expressed reservations with the aim of warning the public against what they deemed a threat, but when the alinement was in power, these people did not criticize them. So, why did those who were silent then, decide to go out of their way now? Does it benefit anyone to strike at the new government?

We have could have understood if the defense minister, who is his boss, had reprimanded him, but the minister said that "Raful" Eytan had not exceeded his authority since the things he said were of purely military content and as such did not go beyond his authority as chief of staff. Weizman also said at the beginning of "Raful's" term of office as chief of staff that "just as his predecessors had opinions of their own, it was only right that 'Raful' have some too." So why should we deal with the chief of staff more severely than the security authorities themselves?

In general "Raful" discussed the security effect that might result from our agreeing to Egypt's political demands, and in his opinion, the effect might be destructive. If that is his opinion, should he have concealed it from us? We once had a chief of staff who was also deeply concerned--that was on the brink of the October war--but only revealed his concern to his supervisors and did not carry it any farther. The result is well known. Everybody attacked him after the disaster. Now here is a chief of staff who behaves differently, and opened his mouth about the danger. She we attack him as well?

The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Eytan, is not known as a political figure, and certainly cannot be named among the members of the new government, and if he made up his mind to warn us, he should be heard thankfully. Here is an honest patriot (his enlightening remark about the fact that only a good Zionist can be a good soldier, a formula which touches upon the innermost part of us, is characteristic of him, and we should be glad that we have been given such a military leader.

RABIN, ARENS GIVE VIEWS ON U.S. AIRCRAFT DEAL

TA132032Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 13 May 78 TA

[Text] Our correspondent Elimelekh Ram has talked with Knesset Members Rabin and Arens on the issue of the aircraft package deal proposed by the United States. [begin videotape]

[Rabin] The U.S. administration is actually selling to Israel the same thing twice. The F-15 was promised to Israel following the disengagement of forces agreement with Syria; the F-16 following the interim agreement with Egypt. Now the administration is trying to sell them to us again, parallel to a supply of arms to Egypt and to Saudi Arabia. As far as the F-15 is concerned, we have been promised 50. We preferred to buy 25 because of budgetary considerations. With previous administrations there was no doubt that the political promise involved 50. As for the F-16, in my talk with Carter a year ago, he told me that in the papers that had been handed to him as recommendations to the administration, it had been agreed to sell 125 out of the 250 F-16's we had requested. We now find ourselves in a position as if the addition of 20 F-15's and the sale of 75 F-16's, and all this linked to a supply of arms to the two Arab countries constitutes, as it were, a compromise.

The second thing, which in my eyes is even more grave than the first, is that the very proposal, which in one breath comprises a supply of weapons to Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, amounts to placing the importance of Israel's security in the eyes of the Americans on the same level as the importance of the security of Egypt and of Saudi Arabia. This constitutes a most serious turning point.

[Ram] What happened, actually? What brought about this turning point in the administration, in your view?

[Rabin] In my view, the State of Israel has not done enough to prevent the precipitation of such a situation. I'm afraid that if the deal does go through, this will mean--with the present timing--an impressive achievement for the administration, as far as its change of attitude toward Israel is concerned. It will also demonstrate its victory in securing the support of Congress for its moves.

[Ram] If the proposal is carried, should Israel accept the planes, take them, or flatly reject the entire deal?

[Rabin] The way I see things now, an Israeli refusal to accept the F-16 or the additional F-15's will not prevent the supply of aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt. I see no sense in not accepting weapons that have been promised to us, weapons that are necessary for Israel's security.

[Ram] Professor Arens, do you think that if we refuse to accept the aircraft, this will prevent the receipt of planes by Saudi Arabia and Egypt?

[Arens] I don't think it would be wise to declare that we refuse to receive them, but I think we should declare that we prefer a situation in which no one will receive a thing. There are many in the U.S. Congress who think that an addition of arms to the Middle East today is not likely to bring peace closer. This assertion is very logical. In my opinion, we must also say this.

[Ram] What, in your view, will happen then?

[Arens] If none of these countries get aircraft today, in my view this is better than if we would get those 90 [figure as heard] aircraft that they want to sell us and the Arabs the 110 aircraft that they want to sell to them. That is to say, from the viewpoint of the balance of power in the air, I prefer the current situation over a situation in which both they and we receive new aircraft.

[Ram] What will happen to the Israeli air arsenal if we don't get them?

[Arens] The Israeli air arsenal is today in relatively good condition. It has to be reinforced though, in view of the dangers facing us. After the whole deal is rejected, we naturally have to approach the administration and the Congress again, and make them honor their original commitment.

[Ram] Do you think that the Government of Israel has erred somewhere, and that we reached the present situation because of that error?

[Arens] It is difficult to say. It is easy to be clever post factum. I think it would have been better had we declared immediately that we have no interest in being a part of a package deal. [end videotape]

JERUSALEM REPORTS ON DAYAN STOCKHOLM PRESS CONFERENCE

TA122036Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 May 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said in Stockholm that if the negotiations for peace open, Israel will refrain from establishing settlements in the territories and will not renew settlement activities so long as the negotiations are under way. Dayan made the statement at a press conference. He explained that Israel had behaved in the same way in the course of the negotiations with Egypt, but now there is no justification for it. He added that we had said that everything is open for negotiations, including the policy of populating areas, and this is what we had truly intended.

The press conference ended before its scheduled conclusion after a correspondent asked an offensive question. The correspondent asked Dayan's answer to those who accuse him and Begin of being terrorists. Dayan refused to answer and urged the correspondent to ask a question of substance if he happened to have one. No other question was submitted and Dayan rose, said thank you, and left the hall. The correspondent was a representative of the British extreme leftist weekly TIME OUT.

Swedish Television Interview

TA122040Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 May 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said this evening in an interview on Swedish Television, answering criticism voiced in Sweden on Israel's positions, that there are countries demanding that we accept risks that they are unwilling to take. Dayan was asked about President Carter's change of mind on the issue of Palestine, and particularly whether he is relying on a president who changes his mind. Dayan answered that he is satisfied with President Carter's position.

Regarding the negotiations with Egypt, Dayan said that Israel is ready to give up all of Sinai up to the international border, albeit with a few reservations. The foreign minister mentioned two of them: demilitarization of the entire Sinai Peninsula and UN control over Sharm ash-Shaykh. Dayan explained that concerning Sharm ash-Shaykh, he meant that the UN should govern there.

Dayan added that Israel prefers a comprehensive peace, but if this is not feasible, peace with one state is preferable to a lack of peace. It will be a great day for Israel if peace with Egypt is signed, he said.

When asked, What will you do if the Arab states refuse to make peace with Israel? He said: We shall have to live without peace.

As for the PLO, the Swedish correspondent asked: If at this moment 'Arafat entered this room, what would you say to him? Dayan answered: I would leave the room. I have no wish to talk to him. We have no basis for a talk. The objective of the PLO is to eliminate Israel. Dayan recalled that the United States had several months ago exerted extensive political efforts to persuade the PLO to join the talks with the sole condition that it recognize Resolution 242, and the PLO had refused.

Dayan was very calm during the interview, and his answers seemed persuasive.

POLL ON RETURNING TERRITORIES INDICATES SPLIT

TA1141736Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 14 May 78 p 3 TA

[Summary] Approximately half of 1,200 individuals interviewed in their homes throughout the country are presently against returning territories on all fronts, as compared with about one-third in favor if that is a necessary condition for peace--this is the conclusion of a nationwide poll held by the PORI Institute at HA'AREZ' request.

In the poll 49.6 percent said that Israel should not agree to return territories in the West Bank and Gaza if that were a necessary condition for a comprehensive peace, compared with 33.5 percent who said that Israel should agree. Of those interviewed, 12.3 percent had no opinion.

Among those of higher education the opinions on this issue are almost balanced, with 43.6 percent against and 42.2 percent for.

NEW CITY TO BE BUILT BETWEEN JERUSALEM, HEBRON

TA1142122Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 May 78 TA

[Text] Various government ministries have recently held contacts aimed at establishing a new city between Jerusalem and Hebron. The new city, named Efrat, is to be set up south of Berekhot Shelomo, on the eastern side of the main road connecting Jerusalem and Hebron. With Ma'ale Ha'adumim and Giv'on, Efrat will be the third town to flesh out Jerusalem. Our correspondent for settlement affairs Yig'al Goren has the initial details about the new town and about the construction plans for Ma'ale Ha'adumim and Giv'on:

The Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs 8 months ago made a decision to expand settlement in Gush 'Ezyon. One of the clauses of the decision, frozen to date, pertained to the establishment of a new city between Jerusalem and Gush 'Ezyon, which will be named Efrat. The city of Efrat appeared in several different plans even before the change of governments. The aim is to flesh out settlements south of Jerusalem and to create a continuity of settlements between Jerusalem and Gush 'Ezyon. The head of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, Minister Ari'el Sharon, is now appealing to the government offices to implement the plan. About 200 dunams have recently been purchased south of Bethlehem, and soon additional hundreds of dunams will be purchased for the establishment of the new city. It should be noted that the initiative is now in Minister Sharon's hands. No official decision has been taken by the Construction Ministry on the Efrat issue since it requires a special governmental decision.

In the meantime the Gush 'Ezyon settlements are planning to establish a public company that will be called the company for the development of Judaea towns. This company will ask the Construction Ministry this week to accept the establishment of the new town.

In contrast to the town of Efrat, regarding which only initial contacts have begun, the plans for Ma'ale Ha'adumim, the town to be set up east of Jerusalem, are progressing. Construction Minister Gid'on Pat told me this evening that at the end of the year his ministry will begin erecting the first houses. Experts proposed that the building site of Ma'ale Ha'adumim be moved westward, and the new city will be erected near the exit road from Jerusalem to Jericho. The industrial area will remain in the same place in the old Ma'ale Ha'adumim. The Construction Ministry has already completed the planning of an additional town north of Jerusalem, in the region of Giv'on. The ministry is in fact prepared to carry out the work but is awaiting government approval. Minister Pat thinks that upon the completion of building in the Ramot neighborhood, the building in Giv'on will begin. According to the plans, the new road will connect Giv'on with the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road. The minister emphasized that it is his ministry's policy to set up high-quality, large urban units in Judaea and Samaria, units that will attract thousands of settlers. He does not think that small settlements that are not self-contained should be built in this densely populated Arab area. It should be noted that this policy is supported by the defense minister and is opposed by Minister Sharon who prefers a large deployment of settlements throughout Judaea and Samaria.

WORK CONTINUES IN SINAI DESPITE FREEZE

TA1413327 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 May 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Amir Shapira]

[Excerpt] Despite the order to freeze all development work connected with the establishment of new settlements in Qidmat Sinai, cultivation in the plots by the Qadesh Barne'a settlement is continuing.

Members of the Qadesh Barne'a nucleus are not allowed to move to the temporary camp set up for them in the area, but they are busy with agricultural work around it in a plot of about 300 dunams. The members of the nucleus, who live in the military camp at Qusaymah in housing brought there by the Jewish Agency's Settlement Branch, grow melons and tomatoes on a plot of dozens of dunams, and are preparing another plot for agricultural experiments in vegetable growing. The cultivated land is irrigated from a well dug by Mekorot which supplies 100 cubic meters of water per hour.

Even though there is no plan to continue building the site (which today is surrounded by a fence and includes 4 residential constructions) as long as the order to freeze is in force, I learned that a short while ago a special budget was approved for settlements for the coming year, with which settlement elements intend to progress the issue of ground preparations and registering of the plots. I also learned that the land survey which was to have taken place on several thousand dunams (which have been selected for cultivation by the Qadesh Barne'a settlers) has been put off. The explanation given for this was political.

A reliable element in the Moshav Movement--to which the Qadesh Barne'a nucleus belongs--rejected the version according to which it is going to be suggested that the Qadesh Barne'a settlers leave the site decided upon and settle in the Gezi'ot area, which is within the green line.

That element stated, on the contrary, that members of the nucleus, and with them the movement, are standing firm on their desire to settle in Qadesh Barne'a. During the waiting period until the freeze is lifted, the group is busy selecting and absorbing families into the nucleus, which until now comprised only single people.

NEW ROADS PAVED IN WEST BANK TO CONNECT SETTLEMENTS

NC1411132Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Text] Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that the paving of several internal roads in western Samaria is being completed, apparently to link the settlements to the central road network.

One of the roads is near the Arab villages of Mashah and 'Azzun in the district of Tulkarm; another is near the Arab villages of (Biryah) and (Samiriyyah) and another near Kifl Harith and Salfit.

GAZA STUDENTS NO LONGER TO ENTER EGYPT VIA AL-QANTARAH

TA131716Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 May 78 TA

[Text] Egypt informed students from the Gaza Strip who study in Egypt that they will no longer be able to use the border crossing point in Al-Qantarah or to use the services of the Red Cross for that purpose, but will have to use the Jordan River crossing points. This has been learned from letters sent by the students to their parents in the Gaza Strip.

The parents have appealed to the Egyptian ambassador in Amman and have demanded the reinstatement of the former arrangement.

PERES COMMENTS ON VISIT TO DAKAR

TA141438Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 14 May 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Tamar Golan, correspondent in Dakar]

[Excerpt] The president of Senegal, Leopold Senghor, expressed his satisfaction with the presence of the Israeli Labor Party in the Socialist International's Executive Convention which ended yesterday in the capital of Dakar.

He told the MA'ARIV correspondent: "I think such contacts contribute to creating a dialog, which is the primary prerequisite for peace."

The president of Senegal is the first African president to meet publicly with an Israeli prime minister after the Yom Kippur war at the end of 1976.

Heading the Israeli delegation was Shim'on Peres, who said: "I am glad that I have been given the opportunity to come here, to the African country which for the first time since the Yom Kippur war has officially hosted a high-ranking Israeli delegation."

He added that the meeting in Dakar is a convenient framework for the exchange of opinions on matters pertaining to the world's labor movements, as well as to matters pertaining to the Middle East.

LABOR PARTY TO FORM RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL PARTY

TA1416500Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 May 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] Our Paris correspondent Tamar Golan has interviewed Knesset Member Shim'on Peres after his sojourn in Senegal: [begin recording]

There was a meeting of the Socialist Internationale in Senegal. Is it to be expected that there will be relations between the Israeli Labor Party and socialist parties in Africa?

[Peres] President Senghor agreed to institute a direct link between our parties. He also agreed that delegations from Senegal should come for example, to the Hapo'el [Labor sports organization] meet next year and to similar events. In other words, he too has actually made several gestures in order to maintain relations on a level that he deems feasible. He is very interested in what is happening in Israel. He regards himself as a friend of the Jewish nation and a friend of Israel. Naturally, the foremost interest is to reach peace.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Mr Peres. [end recording]

WEST BANK TRADE DELEGATION GOES TO JIDDA CONFERENCE

NC141213Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 May 78 NC

[Text] A delegation of the trade chambers in Judaea and Samaria is participating in the conference of the Arab Chambers of Commerce in Jidda, Saudi Arabia.

Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned that merchants in Judaea and Samaria had, at first, decided on forming an independent delegation unconnected with the Jordanian delegation in order to stress the problems existing in Judaea and Samaria and to gain pan-Arab aid.

Last year, the merchants of Judaea and Samaria participated in a joint delegation with Jordan. However, they discovered that this blurred the issue of their problems and did not bring them any benefit. After deciding to participate in an independent delegation, they changed their minds because they were afraid that their decision would be interpreted in Amman as a political step. They decided to ask Amman's permission to present their problems separately. It is still not clear what Amman's response was.

The chairman of the Nabulus Chamber of Commerce, Ja'far al-Masri, has left for the United States to participate in another conference of Arab trade organizations. He has no official status at this conference.

MILITARY DELEGATION MOVES FROM CAIRO TO ALEXANDRIA

TA1417050Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 May 78 p 1 TA

[By Yona Chimshi]

[Text] The Israeli military delegation that has been in Egypt since the deliberations of the Military Committee began 4 months ago, has been transferred from its permanent residence in At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo's Heliopolis quarter to the town of Alexandria. This was done with Defense Minister Weizman's consent and was coordinated with him.

It seems that the delegation has been transferred from Cairo to Alexandria to increase contacts with the Egyptian administration's senior elements. It is known that President as-Sadat is accustomed to spending most of his time during summer in the presidential palace at Alexandria. War Minister General al-Jamasi also spends a major part of the time in the Alexandria area.

As can be recalled, the first meeting between Minister Weizman and General al-Jamasi took place in Alexandria before the talks between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President as-Sadat in Ismailia.

The members of the military delegation are pleased with the arrangements in their new residence, and they are continuing to maintain contact with Israel. The defense minister personally talks with the head of the delegation in Egypt at least once a day, and sometimes several times. The delegation numbers less than 10 people, including technicians and security personnel who rotate every few weeks.

RAKAH REPRESENTATIVE IN PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATION

TA151212Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 15 May 78 p 2 TA

[By Henrietta Bo'az, Netherlands correspondent]

[Text] Several hundred people, mostly youngsters, participated in a march in central Amsterdam on Saturday. The march was organized by the Netherlands Palestinian Committee and was held on the occasion os Israel's 30th anniversary.

Posters carried by the marchers called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. One of the posters said: "30 Years of Israeli Oppression." At the end of the march a rally was held and speeches were made.

An official guest at the rally was (Sariba Hamis), who represented RAKAH. In a radio interview, (Hamis) said that RAKAH supports Israel's right to exist within recognized borders.

NAVAL SHIPS VALUED AT $3 MILLION SOLD ABROAD

TA151153Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 May 78 p 3 TA

[By David Mosheyof]

[Text] The Israel Aircraft Industries has recently signed a contract to sell 4 Dabur ships which they built to a foreign consumer. The deal is worth $3 million and the ships will be supplied soon.

The Dabur ships are equipped with basic equipment such as machine guns and new electronic systems. The ship is fast and is intended for naval patrols or for accompanying convoys. The equipment and weapons can be adapted to the consumer's demands. There is an air conditioning system installed on the ship.

So far the Israel Aircraft Industries have sold 20 Dabur craft, some to the Israeli navy and some to foreign consumers.

SHAH SAYS TO NEWSMEN: IRAN WILL NEVER BE DIVIDED

LD1317102 Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Text] This afternoon, the shah received representatives of the mass media at Niavaran Palace and answered their questions. Referring to the recent demonstrations in Iran, the shah said: [read by announcer]

Some countries have no need to resort to chauvinism to survive. However, in certain geographical regions, there is no alterative but chauvinism [vatanparasti-e do atesheh]. Iran is one of these regions; otherwise, you would disappear and your name would no longer be Iran, but Iranistan. [as heard]

Referring to past politically bankrupt individuals, the shah said: The only way the old politically bankrupt people could take over would be to divide our country into two big countries, thus enabling them to collaborate with the Tudeh officials in the hopes of remaining in the southern part of the country. As for the southern part of the country, tribes do not exist there any more. One reason for this is that 50 percent of the people in southern Iran are literate--and the 50 percent who are literate will not submit to those who would divide the country.

Later in the press conference, the shah said: Iran is no longer divisible. Either it will have to remain independent or the whole country will slide in one direction. The possibility of maintaining Iran as two different entities, northern and southern, where the southern part would be under the domination of the West, is no longer viable, considering the liberalization we have given. The old politically bankrupt people--those who are interested in dividing Iran--have taken to the streets, thinking that by writing a couple of articles here and making some telephone calls to Europe and the United States they could continue to nurture the hope of dividing the country again; however, it is not possible. I and those who are deeply concerned about the country will not permit them to achieve their end. They think that Iran's armed forces will tolerate this; they think a single patriotic Iranian will tolerate this.

The demonstrations of the past few days have been instigated by these people. These people do not have the slightest interest in either the regime or the country. They even flew a flag with a special sign [reference to the demonstrations of 9 May when the hammer and sickle sign was displayed in Teheran], thus revealing a great many things.

The shah said: You may ask how is it possible in a country where a revolution has taken place, and which is so advanced, that there are still a few people whose mentality and approach to issues are not only silly and childish, but also strange and unfathomable. The answer to this question is that no doubt there are certain reasons for discontent, which, naturally, exist everywhere. Moreover, we are daily trying to uncover needless reasons for discontent. One day the importing of fruit is free and the next day it is stopped; neither the first nor the second is correct. This sort of ignorance and, sometimes, pressure by officials certainly exists. No matter how one tries, it still exists. However, hopefully it will disappear as soon as possible. We believe it will disappear through decentralization. However, should these things lead one to try to harm the independence of one's country? Should a student whose tuition is free and who, in addition to that, receives an allowance from the government refuse not only to study himself, but also distract other students from studying as well? When I refer to students, I obviously do not refer to all of them, but only a few.

Answers Questions

LD1321[illegible]6Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1730 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Press conference given by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, shah of Iran, for Iranian journalists at Niavaran Palace on 13 May--recorded]

[Excerpts]

[Question] My question is on foreign affairs. According to the world press and mass media, and the media of our own country, actions have recently begun against Pakistan. If an attempt is made to divide Pakistan, to what extent would it be tolerable to Iran, and what would Iran's (?position likely) be?

[Answer] I hope that this will not happen, for this would mean a complete change in the geopolitics of the region and Iran's eastern borders would be faced with a totally new situation. Inevitably, you have heard about the look-to-the-East policy. Well, we predicted certain things. It is becoming clearer to you every day why the Iranian defense program is (?an imperative), that is if you want an Iran to exist.

Nevertheless, I think I should say that even if we do not intensify [word indistinct] in our present program--which we might do--undoubtedly we ought to [word indistinct]. Otherwise, it is possible that we might face a major danger at some stage.

[Question] My question relates to the remarks that you made about our eastern borders and the event that recently took place in Afghanistan. Do you believe that this event has had or will have an intensifying or expansive effect on the recent riots in Iran?

[Answer] Well, of course, everything is possible. But I do not wish to express a view on this here, except to say that the government has issued a statement and has pointed out that it will rigorously prevent every illegal act in this country.

[Question] A few instances of direct interference in our internal affairs have been observed; all patriotic people (abhorred) these instances of interference. In your remarks, you have referred to some circles which come into contact with foreigners. I imagine that all patriotic people are eager to see that all direct and indirect interference in our country by alien elements should be prevented. In this regard, I imagine that all forms of rigorous actions are (?justified) from the viewpoint of the country's interests and the interests of the Iranian nation. What are the shah's orders in this regard?

[Answer] In this regard, all that I can say is that the government will prevent all illegal actions. Meanwhile, as I said, any such deeds which are obviously lacking in patriotism [passage indistinct]. As for those who try to undermine the position of the country, it is the duty of the government and other organizations to inevitably enforce the law in its (?literal sense).

[Question] [words indistinct] cases which previously used to be sent to the military courts have recently been sent to nonmilitary courts for sentencing. Accordingly, those prisoners who have been convicted by military courts on security matters [words indistinct] should they be retried or should their cases be reviewed? [sentence indistinct]

[Answer] Not all cases will go to the civil courts. Actions which violate articles [numbers indistinct] of the Law of Military Justice will go to military courts as before. It is cases such as window-smashing and the like that go to the civil courts. But the point is that if a case has an aspect of treason, it will go to the military court as before.

SHAH POSTPONES FOREIGN TRIP DUE TO 'PERSISTENT COLD'

LD111202Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 11 May 78 LD

[Text] The Imperial Court has announced today that the shah's visits abroad which had been scheduled to begin on Friday, 12 May (12-16 May to Hungary and 16-19 May to Bulgaria), will now take place beginning on Tuesday, 16 May, because of the shah's persistent cold.

SHI'ITE SEMINARIAN ARRESTED AFTER MOSQUE DISTURBANCE

LD131422Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 13 May 78 LD

[Excerpts] A young Shi'ite seminarian who, after inciting people to commit acts of sedition and agitation in Abadan, intended to flee to Teheran in disguise, has been trapped and arrested in Ahvaz airport. Our correspondent's dispatch indicates that this incident started after a funeral service at Abadan's Behbahaniha Mosque.

Last Tuesday 9 May, a group of Abadan's citizens attended a funeral ceremony at the Behbahaniha Mosque, with the participation of a group of some 3,000 people. While the qaris [preachers] were busy reciting verses from the Holy Koran a young seminarian arrived in the mosque. He said he had come from Qom to Abadan in order to participate in the ceremony but that he hadn't been invited and he hadn't made any previous arrangement. He ascended the pulpit and began to preach, uttering antinational remarks.

The young seminarian, who in subsequent investigations was identified as Mohammad-Husayn Husayni Ramshahri, launched a trenchant attack on the lawful Iranian Government and regime in his 50-minute long speech and incited the people to oppose the country's regime and to commit acts of sedition and war. At the end of the sermon--in order to avoid being identified--he put on ordinary clothes, donned a wig, and disguised himself with the intention of running away. He then left for Ahvaz.

The officials, who had been chasing and searching for him, identified and arrested him at Ahvaz airport. He was wearing a wig, a shirt and a pair of pants and had taken a great deal of trouble to disguise himself fully. On being arrested at Ahvaz, a religious caftan, which he had donned while preaching at the mosque, and a quantity of antinational and subversive publications were found in hisbriefcase. During the investigations, Ramshahri admitted that after learning about the funeral ceremony in Abadan he traveled to Khuzestan with the aim of inciting acts of sedition and with the aim of inciting the people to rebel--at the instructions of a person in Qom whose name he disclosed.

Investigations by officers aimed at discovering the real motives of this person--and his instigators--continue.

AFGHANISTAN

KABUL BROADCASTS TEXT OF TARAKI PRESS CONFERENCE

JN1216202Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 12 May 78 JN

[Text of the press conference held by Afghan Prime Minister Nur Mohammad Taraki in Kabul, presumably on 6 May--read by announcer]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: I welcome you on behalf of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and I wish to thank you for your concern with the recent events in Afghanistan. I can sum up for you the story of the revolution.

The revolution was carried out upon the instructions of and by the People's Democratic Party in Afghanistan. I hereby declare for the first time, that the recent event was not a coup by a number of soldiers and army officers, but [words indistinct], in order to save Afghanistan from the claws of oppression and from the strangling economic system.

Since the establishment of the party 15 years [as heard] ago, we have been [words indistinct]. We supported Daud, hopeful and confident that he would allow us to participate in the government and give us [words indistinct]. Actually, the armed forces launched a wide-scale attack by shelling [word indistinct]. Daud refused to surrender and refused to (?heed) our repeated agreements to the effect that he and his ministers would surrender themselves to our forces. Moreover, his troops shelled our positions. This promoted our forces to retaliate, killing him and several members of his regime. The revolution succeeded.

You may have read in the press [word indistinct]. This is a summary of the story of the revolution. I want to center on an important point here--that this event was not a coup by [words indistinct]. It was rather a great revolution led by our party, which was started 15 years [as heard] ago.

I welcome you once more, and I am prepared to answer any question you may put in this respect. I was once a journalist, and I spent many years in journalism. However, I gave up my profession as a journalist 27 years ago in view of the political ideologies and [word indistinct].

Question by the correspondent of the French television: Mr President, do you consider yourself and your government communist, socialist and reformist?

Answer: I would like to say that our party has declared its program in the past. It is not just a reformist but also a progressive program. There are various kinds of reform, but ours is a democratic government concerned with the interests of the subjugated classes of the Afghan people--in other words, the classes of workers, peasants and small bourgeoisie. We are here for the sake of the people.

Question: Will there be special relations between you and the USSR?

Answer: Our relations with all countries, including the USSR and all neighboring countries, will depend on the extent of their support for our revolutionary government and their cooperation with us in the political and economic fields.

Question: Mr President, does this mean that you are pursuing a completely neutral policy:

Answer: Yes, this is completely correct. We are completely neutral. Our friendship with others will be based on the extent of their support for us.

Question: You supported Daud in 1973. Was it not possible to carry out the revolution then with Daud?

Answer: You are right. We thought that Daud would indeed carry out actions in the interest of the subjugated class. Daud deceived not only himself but the whole nation. Daud delivered a speech to the nation. It was a progressive speech compared to what the monarchy used to say. We were satisfied with that speech. Therefore, we were right in supporting Daud on the basis of that speech.

Question by the NEW YORK TIMES [correspondent]: Can you shed light on your relations with the United States?

Answer: Yes, as I said before, we will try to maintain ties of friendship with the United States. But I would like to repeat once again that these relations will depend on the extent of U.S. political and economic support for our revolutionary government.

Question: What do you mean be economic support?

Answer: Economic support means giving aid and participating in our projects. [words indistinct]. If a government cooperates with us in the political and economic fields, then we will be a good friend to it. There will be no exception for any country.

Question: Do you believe that [words indistinct] economic stability by the big powers more than neocolonialism?

Answer: The cooperation must be unconditional and [word indistinct] the objectives of neocolonialism and imperialism.

Question by the TIMES correspondent: First, I have a question on foreign policy: Do you wish to establish friendly relations with the countries supporting Afghanistan and other countries in the area, and what will the nature of these relations be? For instance, do you intend to give some support to the question of Pushtunistan? The second question, which is linked with domestic policy, is: Has Afghanistan taken a country or a bloc of countries as a model for its development?

Answer: In reply to the first question, I would like to say that we want to continue the relations of good neighborliness with the neighboring countries. I would like to reaffirm that this matter depends on those countries' support for and sincere recognition of us. Pushtunistan is a political subject. We are studying it and wish to solve it with our Pakistani brothers in a peaceful and cordial manner.

In reply to the second question, I would like to say that we have a model [as heard], we carried out our own revolution. We did not carry it out in the darkness of the night. Our revolution is a unique experience in the area. We are building our country on the model we created. We are here to serve the Afghan people. By the subjugated people, we mean the workers, peasants and other classes of the Afghan community.

Question by the correspondent of FRANKFURTER RUNDSHAU of West Germany: Will your government [words indistinct].

Answer: As I said before, we uphold the policy of neutrality. We will not join any military pact. We are against pacts and hope that all countries will stop joining such pacts. We are for peace and freedom in all countries of the world, including Afghanistan.

Question by the correspondent of [words indistinct]: What is your first revolutionary responsibility in the field of social and economic policy?

Answer: We want to carry out land reform in the real sense of the word. We want to [word indistinct] trade. We want the aid of all friendly countries to develop our resources. We also really want to achieve the development and economic prosperity of our people. [words indistinct]

Question: Do you have any special program for land reform?

Answer: Yes, we have such a program, but the study of its technical aspects requires some time before the program can be carried out. We have not studied the technical aspects of this program. We are doing that now.

Question by the representative [words indistinct]: Is it possible to carry out the land reform program before solving the social problems?

Answer: We believe that social development will only be possible after the economic changes. [words indistinct]

Question by the correspondent of the Yugoslav news agency: The Coordination Bureau of the nonalined states was scheduled to hold its session in Kabul. This session is now meeting in New York. Are you sending your foreign minister to participate in the session so as to explain your neutral policy?

Answer: This subject is being seriously considered. Afghanistan will participate in this session. My colleagues and I are sorry that we could not call the nonalined foreign ministers to Kabul, but we hope to send our foreign minister.

Question: You have given clarifications concerning the Khalq Democratic Party. This party was banned, but it carried out activities clandestinely. Now that the party has taken over power, does it have the (?old documents)?

Answer: I would like to say that this party was not always banned. There was an article in the (Zahirshah) constitution permitting the formation of parties. But in order to (suppress) parties, they said that the Interior Ministry would draft another law permitting the formation of certain parties. They could not tell us: Do not form the party, because the constitution permitted the formation of parties. Therefore, acting on the basis of the constitution, we formed the Khalq Democratic Party on 1 January 1956. A year later, we published our program in the weekly paper KHALQ. I believe I have answered your question. This party was not always suppressed. The party was not a clandestine organization for 3 to 4 years under Daud. But when Daud announced his false constitution saying that all parties, with the exception of his party, were unlawful, we acted cautiously. We stopped publishing leaflets concerning the party's activities. However, our party was [words indistinct].

Question by the representative [words indistinct]: Do you intend to allow other parties to carry out their activities?

Answer: Yes. This subject is being discussed by us. If the other parties are not against our program and revolution, we will allow them to carry out their activities. This, of course, depends on our future [word indistinct]. Now I cannot say anything. Our party has been established for 15 years, and its leadership is [word indistinct]. I will answer your question about allowing the other parties to carry out their activities in the future.

Question by the representative of the GUARDIAN: [words indistinct].

Answer: We respect [word indistinct] Islam. We will not prevent anybody from performing his religious rites. Our nation is a Moslem nation. We will serve this nation, and we will never intervene in religious affairs.

Question by representative [words indistinct]: Do you intend to enact new laws and to [words indistinct]?

Answer: We do respect [words indistinct]. We depend on Islam, [word indistinct].

Question by the representative of the GDR: You have called the recent changes the democratic revolution. Are you confident that the people will appreciate this and will this be [words indistinct]?

Answer: [words indistinct].

Further Report

JN1411472 Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Remaining part of the press conference held by Nur Mohammad Taraki, president and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, presumably on 6 May--read by announcer]

[Text] Question, by the correspondent of [words indistinct]: Do you allow newspapers to be free and without sponsorship?

Answer: We have not yet started [word indistinct] of the government. The subject is still under study, and we shall take [words indistinct] in this regard [words indistinct].

Question: By a (?Cypriot) [word indistinct]: Can you tell us what are the principal economic problems facing you?

Answer: We are facing many problems, and we ask for help from all resources [words indistinct]. Also we are constantly in need of economic aid. We are experiencing many economic problems and welcome all (?help) from countries on the condition that their help is void of neocolonialist and imperialist aims. I declare this to the whole world with complete honesty.

Question: Are there economic relations between you and the Soviet Union which require the resumption of negotiations regarding them?

Answer: Now there are economic relations between us and the Soviet Union. This country has, in fact, offered us great help, and we call on the Soviet Union and all other states to offer us unconditional help. We welcome aid but do not accept aid which is conditional.

Question: Are there some [word indistinct] in your economic relations with the Soviet Union which should be changed, or are there matters which cause anxiety and require a settlement?

Answer: We call on all, including the Soviet Union, to help us more than before, but without conditions. This country is free and neutral. Contrary to what is propagated by the information organs [words indistinct], we are free and are moving ahead according to the circumstances prevailing in our society. Our main aim is to achieve prosperity for the workers, peasants and the toiling (?masses).

GOVERNMENT ISSUES ORDER ON WHEAT RATION, WAGES

JN141853Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Proclamation No 1 issued by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan]

[Text] During the tyrannical Daud regime, the toiling masses of Afghanistan were subjected to all sorts of discrimination. One such discrimination was related to the distribution of wheat by ration cards and wage compensation for workers and employees. Since the aim of the successful [word indistinct] revolution is to serve the Afghan people without any discrimination and to build a new and prosperous Afghanistan, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, upon the recommendation of the Finance Ministry and in accord with the main lines of the revolutionary [words indistinct], announces that the rationing of wheat and wage compensation will be dispensed with as of 22 May 1978.

ORDER RELEASES 'SMUGGLED GOODS' TO PUBLIC

JN141855Y Kabul in Arabic to the Arab World 1000 GMT 14 May 78 JN

[Proclamation No 2 issued by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan]

[Text] For many years there have been many kinds of smuggled goods and commodities lying in the Customs Department. Due to the corruption of the Nadir Khan family administration, these commodities were not utilized by the public or the Treasury. These commodities are decaying, and many of them are not fit for consumption.

Therefore, upon the recommendation of the Finance Ministry, it is announced that all these smuggled commodities which have hitherto been kept in the Customs Department are considered public property. The Finance Ministry will, therefore, disperse them in the proper manner.

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUES DECREE ON LAWS, JUSTICE

LD141815Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Decree No 3 of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan]

[Excerpts] In the name of Almighty God: With the success of the revolution of 27 April, the abolition of the self-made constitution of Mohammad Daud was officially declared to the dear compatriots. The Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], in order to regulate the legal status of legal persons and corporate bodies, and in order to regulate the duties of the state organs, has ratified the following:

Article 1: With the exception of the constitution of 1976, which has already been declared abolished, all other laws, regulations and decrees in force shall be enforceable on the condition that they comply with the aims of the DRA and are not abolished by the decree of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Article 2:

A--The powers of the Supreme Court incorporated in the Law of Judicial Authority and Organization [LJAO] passed in 1966 are hereby transferred to the DRA Supreme Judicial Council. The Supreme Judicial Council [SJC] is accountable to the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

B--The SJC is composed of the following:

(I) The minister of justice as president;
(II) The deputy minister of justice for judicial affairs as member;
(III) The president of the court of cassation as member;
(IV) The deputy minister of justice for administrative affairs as member;
(V) The assistant attorney-general as member;
(VI) One or more other persons that may be appointed on the proposal of the minister of justice and with the approval of the president of the Revolutionary Council.

[Partly indistinct passage containing two articles that the SJC will report to the Revolutionary Council and that all final judicial decisions are enforceable]

Article 5: The powers of the head of state at the time, which are incorporated in the LJAO, are hereby transferred to the president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Article 6: The powers of the chief justice incorporated in the LJAO are hereby transferred to the minister of justice.

Article 7:

A--A court named the Military Revolutionary Court is hereby constituted and will continue to perform its duties until its dissolution by the DRA Revolutionary Council. It is accountable to the DRA Revolutionary Council.

B--The method of trial in this court shall be in accordance with the law of military prosecution.

C--This court can function as a circuit court on an itinerary basis.

Article 8:

A--Judges of the Military Revolutionary Court shall be appointed by the DRA Revolutionary Council.

B--This court will try military and civil persons who commit crimes against the 27 April revolution, against the interests of the people and national interests, and in violation of the internal and foreign security of the DRA. They will be punished according to the penal law, the military penal law and the decrees of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

Article 9: All other organs of the DRA shall perform their duties in accordance with the laws and regulations that are currently in force. [passage omitted containing Article 10 on technical amendments to the law on civil servants, with the effect of removing certain limitations on appointments and grades]

Article 11:

A--All military officers, lieutenants, teachers and officials who are entitled to promotion on 17 July 1978 will get their promotion as of 27 April 1978, the day of the victorious democratic revolution of Afghanistan.

B--All workers and contract employees who are entitled to a higher grade as of between 27 April 1978 and 17 July 1978 will be promoted as of 27 April 1978 to that grade.

KABUL REPORTS NEW GOVERNORS, DISTRICT OFFICIALS

LD141450Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 14 May 78 LD

[Text] On the basis of an Interior Ministry proposal, the approval of the High Council of Ministers and of the president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] a number of governors and district officers have been appointed.

Nur Mohammad Taraki, the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, addressed the governors and district officers when he presented their appointment decrees to them. He explained the main lines of duties of the Government of the DRA versus the sacred aims of the revolution of 27 April and drew their attention to their duties and obligations for serving the oppressed and hard-working people of the country. Nur Ahmad Nur, the minister of interior, was present. The president of the Revolutionary Council expressed the hope that the governors and district officers would genuinely symbolize their revolutionary duties and be in the service of the people.

The governors and district officers who have been newly appointed are as follows:

Mohammad Salem Mas'udi, governor of Kabul;

Feda Mohammad Dehneshin, governor of Balkh;

Abdol-ahad (?Yunosi), governor of Ghazni;

La'l Pacha, governor of Farah;

Pohanmal Golzad, governor of Baghlan;

Sahebjan Sahra'i, governor of Kundz;

(?Goldin), governor of Jozjan;

Seyd Ahmad Shah (?Zarmati), governor of Faryab;

Mohammad Nabi Shorideh, governor of Nimruz;

Ali Aqa, governor of Badghisat;

Abdol Ghafur, governor of Laghman;

(?'Idak) Shah, governor of Konarha;

Gholam Rasul, governor of Aybak;

Mohammad Osmar Rasekh, governor of Velayat-e;

Abdolazim (?'Adel), governor of Badakhshan;

Salahoddin Hotak, governor of Lowgar;

Sayyed (?Rauf Nurzad), governor of Bamian;

Mohammad Ebrahim Dehqan, governor of Parvan;

Abdol Majid, governor of Hilmand;

Mohammad Omar Saghari, governor of Ghowr;

Gholam Hoseyn, governor of Wardag;

Hayatollan, governor of Oruzgan;

Abdoshokur (?Tabib), district officer of Kapisa;

[name indistinct], district officer of Katawaz;

(?Farid Khal), district officer of Shinwar.

BANGLADESH

BURMESE REFUGEE INFLUX INTO BANGLADESH REACHES 143,000

BK140932Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 14 May 78 BK

[Text] With the influx of 16,000 fresh evictees, the total number of Burmese nationals pushed into Bangladesh territory has reached 143,000.

Meanwhile, more reports are now available about the genocide and atrocities committed by the Burmese authorities and their accomplices on these uprooted people. The officers working at different refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar area (?report that) 445 women of different ages were brutally tortured and raped by the unscrupulous Burmese authorities.

The world press has reacted sharply in reporting the plight of Burmese refugees and their forced eviction to Bangladesh.

INDIA

PARLIAMENT SEEKS TO DISENFRANCHISE GANDHI

BK121030Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 12 May 78 BK

[Text] In the lower house, the speaker has admitted a motion seeking to secure disenfranchisement of Mrs Gandhi in case she being adjudged guilty by the Shah Commission of any offense committed on misuse of power, position or state machinery.

The motion is in the name of Mr Jyotirmay Basu of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]. It seeks enactment of an appropriate law to disqualify a person from being chosen as or from being a member of either house of Parliament, or of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council or any other elective body or public office for a period of 10 years.

'COMMUNIST BOLSHEVIK PARTY' FORMED IN KERALA STATE

BK141625Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 78 BK

[Text] A new communist party called the Communist Bolshevik Party has been formed. The foundation conference of the party in Cochin today elected the secretary and a state committee for the party.

Among the leaders who attended the conference were Mr K.P.R. Gopalan, one of the founder leaders of the Communist Party of India in the 30's, Mr A.V. Erian and Mr Varu Vishwan.

PAKISTAN

AFP: PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS FLOGGED, SENTENCED TO PRISON

OW131912Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1900 GMT 13 May 78 OW

[Text] Lahore, May 13 (AFP)--Four pressmen were flogged tonight between three to five lashes each within seventy minutes after a summary military court sentenced them to various prison terms with lashes for staging a hunger strike in defiance of a martial law ban.

According to an official announcement, those flogged were Mr Masoodullah Khan, senior sub-editor, PAKISTAN TIMES, Rawalpindi; Mr Khawar Naeem Hashmi, sub-editor, DAILY MUSAWAT, Lahore and Mr Nazir Zaidi, correspondent of the left-wing weekly AL-FATAH, Karachi, and Mr Iqbal Jafari of the DAILY SUN, Karachi. They were among the eleven journalists and press workers jailed by the summary military court today for taking part in the hunger strike on the joint call of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists and All-Pakistan Newspaper Employees Confederation. The two national trade unions of journalists and press workers have been pressing the authorities to restore publication of the Urdu-language DAILY MUSAWAT, organ of former Prime Minister Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). The newspaper ceased publication in March last after its press was forfeited by the martial law authorities for publishing a statement of the former premier.

This is the first time in the history of the country that journalists have been whipped for demanding press freedom. The punishment of whipping was introduced by the military regime of General Ziaul Haq a few months after he captured power in a bloodless coup in July last year. Since then, only hardened criminals like kidnappers or rapists and occasionally political supporters of former Prime Minister Bhutto have been whipped on charges of moral turpitude or for indulging in unlawful political activities or organising protest demonstrations against the military regime.

The journalists and press workers have been going on hunger strikes outside the office of the DAILY MUSAWAT here in small batches daily since April 30 last. The government instead of accepting their demand for restoring publication of the DAILY MUSAWAT, Lahore, also brought about the closure of the Karachi edition of the newspaper on May 11 when the government-owned press refused to publish it.

About eighty journalists and press workers have courted arrest in the last two weeks, out of whom forty-one have been jailed after summary trials.

SRI LANKA

AFP: SECURITY FORCES SEARCH FOR 'LIBERATION TIGERS'

BK150751Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0728 GMT 15 May 78 BK

[Text] Colombo May 15 (AFP)--Sri Lanka's security forces have launched a massive house-to-house search to flush out "liberation tigers" who have killed five policemen during the past 5 weeks.

President J.R. Jayewardene last night called out the armed services to assist the police in this operation and issued a special gazette notification giving them powers of search and arrest. This is one of a series of tough measures taken by the president to wipe out the "liberation tigers" movement which has claimed responsibility for the assassination of a minority Tamil politician, the attempted murder of two Tamil members of Parliament and the killing of six policemen who were investigating their activities.

The underground self-styled "liberation tigers" movement consists of militant Tamil youth who are pressing Tamil leaders not to compromise on their demand for a separate state for the minority Tamils who form 11.2 percent of the 14 million population. A senior police source told AFP they believed this movement was a wing of a prominent Tamil political party in the north.

In another move, the government has referred to the Constitutional Court, as a matter of urgent national importance, a draft bill seeking to proscribe the "liberation tigers" movement and other similar terrorist organisations.

During the weekend, police named four men, believed to be hard-core members of the "liberation tigers" movement, wanted in connection with the attempted assassination of a member of Parliament and the killing of a team of four police officers last month. Thousands of people gathered at public places yesterday to look at wall-posters put up by the police carrying blown-up photographs and descriptions of the four "most wanted men." A senior police officer told AFP many people who had seen the posters had given useful leads which the police were following up. The police had also offered rewards of rupees 100,000 ($6,450) for information that would lead to the arrest of each of the wanted men.

The house-to-house search operation is concentrated in the northern and eastern provinces, the homeland of the Tamils where "liberation tigers" are operating. Security forces were also checking vehicles entering and leaving the northern peninsula while other units were continuing their search for some of the terrorists believed to be hiding in the jungles.

In Colombo, the police were keeping certain houses, believed to have connections with the movement, under surveillance. The armed forces were also on alert throughout the country to deal with any contingency while operations against the terrorists were underway.

The government-run DAILY NEWS said today police investigations had revealed that about 20 terrorists now operating in Sri Lanka had received training abroad with international terrorist organisations like the IRA and the Baader-Meinhof group of West Germany.

The newspaper said police investigations had also revealed that at the time of the killing of four CID [Criminal Investigation Department] detectives last month, the "liberation tigers" had been planning to purchase arms abroad and smuggle them into the country in large quantities. The purchase of these arms was to be financed by a group of sympathisers in Malaysia, the newspaper said.

Two CID detectives have gone to south India to investigate whether some of the terrorists have escaped there. Police believe that some groups of Sri Lankan Tamils living in India, the United Kingdom, the gulf states, Malaysia and Singapore are assisting the "liberation tigers" movement.

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